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THE TIMES

MEDIA
Page 15

No 64,188

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1991

40p

Seven-day shopping to Christmas

Supermarkets flout law on Sunday trading

By PETER VICTOR AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LEADING high street supermarket chains yesterday launched their most serious challenge to Sunday trading legislation when they announced plans to open seven days a week in the run-up to Christmas.

Tesco led the pre-Christmas revolt, followed by Asda and Sainsbury. All three said they would trade on the first four Sundays in December. Up to 1,000 supermarkets are expected to open.

Marks & Spencer said it would not break the law in England and Wales, although stores in Scotland would be trading legally on Sundays. Waitrose and Kwik-Save, subsidiaries of the John Lewis Partnership, said they would consider the matter further. "We would prefer not to open on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas but will consider doing so if that is what customers demand in selected stores at selected times," J Sainsbury, the country's largest supermarket chain which had a policy of not opening, said it was now reconsidering its position.

The Tesco lead comes against the background of a growing free-for-all in Sunday trading this year as stores take advantage of loopholes in the law which have to be resolved by the European and British courts.

The Home Office said it expected local authorities to enforce the current legislation, the Shops Act 1950,



which forbids Sunday opening in England and Wales. "We have no present plans to suspend the law on Sunday trading before Christmas... unless and until the law is changed it should be obeyed." The statement left open the possibility that the law could be suspended, though Home Office sources said it had been decided that such a course of action would not be sensible or practical.

Enforcement of the law is a matter for local authorities, though sources within the Home Office conceded that some were reluctant to bring actions because they are awaiting a ruling from the European Court clarifying the legal position. People wanting to complain about a store in their area opening on Sunday must go first to the local trading standards office. The trading officers do not

actively seek out stores which are flouting the law but will respond to a complaint.

Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, is due to hold further meetings with pressure groups interested in reforming the Sunday trading laws during the next few weeks as part of a lengthy consultation exercise. This exercise has helped the government politically by concealing its lack of a clear policy on an issue which led to Margaret Thatcher's only serious legislative defeat.

John Major has called the trading laws "bizarre" but has made no move to change the Shops Act.

The Association of District Councils said that the law in its current state was unenforceable. The appeal court has ruled that local authorities taking out injunctions to stop stores from trading on Sundays must bear liability for those stores' losses should they eventually lose. The matter is to be considered by the House of Lords next week.

Sunday trading in the run-up to Christmas is likely to prove profitable for the main supermarket chains. Although staff costs may double on Sundays, rents and rates, which often represent around 7 per cent of sales, are spread over seven trading days rather than six. Sunday opening allows supermarkets to trade more aggressively on Saturdays and means fewer discounts and less waste at the weekend.

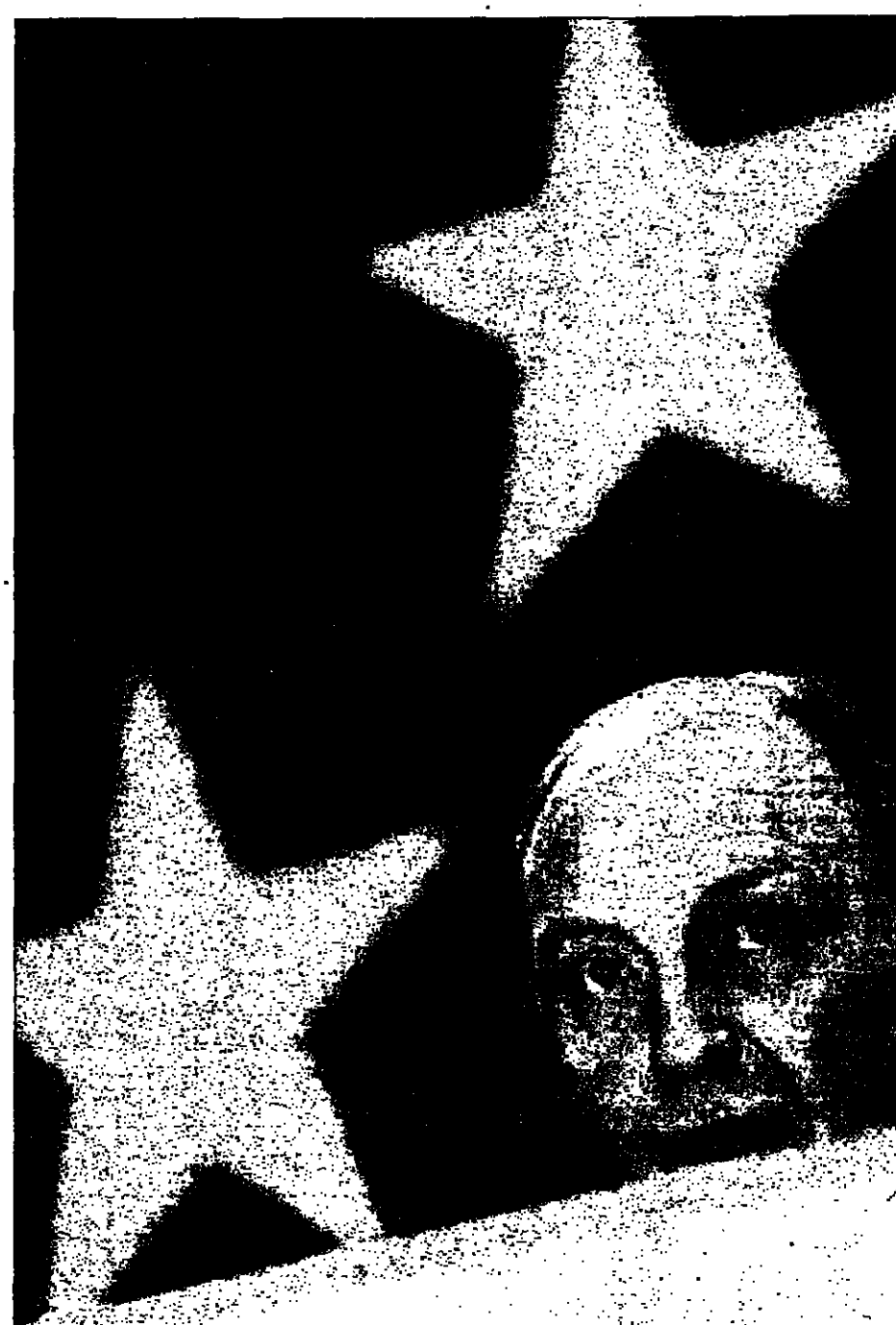
Tesco's announcement that it would open most of its 376 stores in England and Wales on the first four Sundays next month had been prompted by concern about possible erosion of its 9.4 per cent market share, a spokesman said. British Home Stores opened 44 of its 137 branches last Sunday and said the response had been such that it would be opening most of the rest on Sundays before Christmas. "Last week some 200 stores were open on Sunday," Tesco's spokesman said. "They've been increasing at a rate of 40 a week and there comes a time when you have to protect your investment."

Asda, which has 205 stores nationwide, said it would open 105 stores next Sunday. Alistair Grant, chairman of the Sainsbury supermarket group Argill, said he planned to open most of his 310 Sainsbury stores in England and Wales on the Sundays before Christmas. Mr Grant, whose group announced a rise in pre-tax profits of 24 per cent to £178 million for the six months to October 12, said customer demand had prompted the move. The group will not be selling alcohol on Sundays.

The Sunday trading decision was attacked by the shop workers' union, Usdaw. Keep Sunday Special Campaigners and the Co-op Wholesale Society.

Sir Dennis Landau, chief executive of the Co-op Wholesale Society and a supporter of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said the announcement made a mockery of the legal system.

Legal disarray, page 3
Leading article, page 19



Starry eyed: Neil Kinnock as seen by Chris Harris, a Times photographer, at the launch of Labour's campaign on Europe. Referendum rejected, page 2

140 councils face poll tax cap under new rules

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 140 councils, most of them Conservative, face poll tax capping next year under rules announced by the government yesterday. The charge is expected to average £257, £6 more than this year.

One council, Labour-run Derwentside, in Co Durham, will have to cut its budget by a tenth and 12 others will have to trim theirs by 5 per cent under rules set out by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. Of the remainder, 30 will have to freeze their budgets to avoid capping while almost 100 more will have to fix budgets

according to the government's rules rather than in response to local needs.

Most of the councils had escaped capping this year because of a rule that exempted councils with budgets below £15 million from capping. That rule will be waived next year.

Local government leaders said the capping criteria would prevent councils from benefiting from a 7.2 per cent increase in total permitted council spending, also announced by the environment secretary.

Mr Heseltine told the Commons that the package would

allow councils to spend a total of £41.8 billion next year. If they kept to government limits, poll tax bills should average £257. Council treasurers predicted that bills would be £50 to £150 a head more than that, and accused ministers of ignoring the growing problems in collecting the charge.

The environment secretary announced a £600 million increase in spending on the police, a 12.9 per cent rise that will help to finance the recruitment of an extra 1,000 officers in 1992. Local authority spending on education will rise by 7.1 per cent and social services will be allowed an extra 7.7 per cent from April. Spending on fire and civil defence will go up by 8.8 per cent.

While government grants to councils will rise by 14.7 per cent to £16.6 billion the amount contributed by business rates will fall by 0.8 per cent to £12.3 billion. Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said the prediction of a £257 charge was based on the same fanciful assumptions of 100 per cent collection on which previous forecasts had been wrongly made.

Derwentside says its exceptional circumstances justify its spending £12.7 million this year, almost double its target. Its area includes the former Consett steelworks and it has high unemployment, ill health and deprivation.

Mr Heseltine confirmed that the uniform business rate would rise by 4.1 per cent from next April, increasing poundage payable by companies from 38.6p to 40.2p in the pound.

Paying old debts, page 18

Newspapers win Spycatcher case

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE power of the government to restrict media publication of information was dealt a severe blow yesterday when the European Court of Human Rights found it was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights in trying to gag three newspapers in the Spycatcher affair.

In a unanimous verdict by the Strasbourg court, 24 judges, which marks the end of a five-year battle, Britain was found in breach of human rights by trying to stop The Guardian, the Observer and The Sunday Times publishing extracts from Spycatcher, the memoirs of Peter Wright, the former M15 officer, which were available worldwide.

However, the court upheld the government's ban in June 1986 prior to the book's publication worldwide. The government was within its rights to prevent publication of potentially sensitive material before the book became widely available, the judgment said. The government sought to gag the newspapers on the grounds of national security and to prevent disclosure of information gained in confidence. Once Spycatcher was available worldwide, the continued ban breached a human rights convention.

Lawyers hail ruling, page 2
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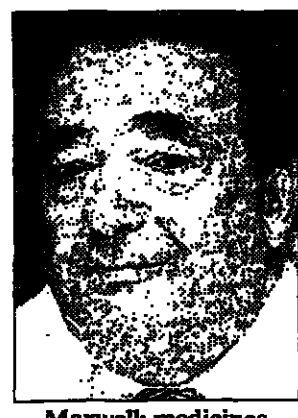
Maxwell 'died of natural causes'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

ROBERT Maxwell died from natural causes after becoming ill and falling from his luxury yacht off the Canary Islands, but medicines may have contributed to his death, according to a provisional verdict yesterday.

The conclusion was reached by two of the three Spanish pathologists who conducted the original post mortem examination in Las Palmas after their first meeting with toxicologists in Madrid. Dr Carlos López de Lamela and Dr María José Mallén said they both had a much better idea of how the tycoon might have died after swapping findings during a long conversation at Spain's Institute of Toxicology, where all Mr Maxwell's organs have been examined and tested.

"There is no data that changes our original opinion," Dr López de Lamela said. "Our first impression lay in the direction of a natural type death." But he said that the institute, a part of Spain's justice ministry, was conducting further tests on certain medicines and the deceased's lungs. These would be completed soon and then the pathologists will return to Las Palmas to complete their autopsy report for the local judge. "There is always the possibility of one last substance that was not found."



Maxwell: medicines may have contributed

Dr Mallén said. The pathologists said that all medicines on board the yacht Lady Ghislaine had been sent to Madrid for tests, and that bananas were the last thing the millionaire ate, several being found in his cabin. But there was a hint from the pathologists that Mr Maxwell was also taking medicines, perhaps rashly.

"There is a possibility that he had taken medicines that contributed to his death," Dr López de Lamela said. "Certain types of medicines are being examined. He could have taken them absentmindedly." They did not include suicide in the possibilities.

Media, page 15

For-sale signs go up in the Falklands

By GEORGE SIVELL

FOR sale: a recently renovated public house, a newly established country hotel, a port management company with development land attached to take advantage of a recent minerals rights settlement and a willing workforce of more than 130. Or so the estate agent might say. If pressed by an inquisitive buyer he might say the land was 380 miles off the Argentine coast; and if setting a brutally historic precedent of honesty for his profession, he would also concede that something of an attempted invasion occurred there almost ten years ago.

An estate agent's deceptive talents may yet be needed for the Falkland Islands Company, put up for sale yesterday by Anglo United, the conglomerate which finds itself the latest in a long line of curious owners of the company, first established by a Royal Charter of 1851.

But spurred on by Lord Shackleton's report of 1982 — called for after the successful defence of the islands by the British against the Argentinians — the company has done much to improve the lot of the islanders. In the wake of criticism of absentee landlords in the report, all the 800,000 acres of agricultural land have already been sold to the islanders. The Upland Goose, the islanders' pub, is doing a roaring trade, says Anglo United, after refurbishment over the past six months. Similarly, the Darwin House Country Hotel, handy for the newly developed Mount Pleasant airport, is overcoming its past. Port management is helping to generate £30 million of Falkland government revenue from deep-sea squid fishing and could also help with oil exploration of the 200 miles of territorial water, for which licences are now available.

The island government will stop any buyer likely to act against its interests.

The Argentinians were behind a takeover bid for the company in 1975, before the much more public attempt by General Galtieri's men in 1982.

Falkland Islands was a public company until 1971 when it was bought for £3 million by Dundee, Perth and London, an investment company advised and 20 per cent owned by Slater Walker. In the wake of the 1974 secondary banking collapse, Charringtons, the fuel group, bought Dundee and was swallowed up by Coalite, for £26 million in 1977. Anglo United bid no less than £478 million for Coalite in 1989. Prospective buyers should bear in mind that the Falkland Islands Company made £1.25 million in the year to March 1991 on sales of £7.5 million and net assets of £7 million. Doubtless the estate agent would slip into the conversation that big Far East buyers are interested — if nobody more patriotic steps forward.



Galtieri: launched a takeover bid in 1982

Brussels orders airline fare cuts

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND TOM WALKER

THE European Commission will today order British Airways and several other leading European airlines to cut fares on up to 90 routes because of what Brussels sees as excessive fare increases.

However the airlines maintain they are losing money on European services and will challenge the EC's right to demand price reductions. The battle began last December when the airlines applied to increase their fares because of soaring fuel costs.

Under new EC legislation both governments at either end of a route have to approve new fares. The rule, known as double disapproval, had been seen by legislators as a way of forcing down fares by enabling an airline to undercut rivals. The effect, however, proved to be the reverse and increases also went ahead.

At first the Civil Aviation Authority in Britain, which has to approve any price changes, gave its blessing. It meant, for example, that the cost of a single business ticket to Brussels went up from £118 to £130; to Copenhagen, from £176 to £185; to Nice, from £172 to £181; and to Rome, from £213 to £224.

A month later the airlines asked for further rises and this time the CAA turned them down. To their acute embarrassment, however, other European countries gave the go-ahead and the CAA was forced to refer the decision to the Community for investigation.

Now, after a year during which the fares have gone up yet again, it is believed that about a third of the proposed increases have been ruled inadmissible and unjustified. The airlines claim that the strict interpretation of the rules under which they have to prove that the fares are justified takes no account of the improvement in the service for business class passengers. British Airways lost £34 million in Europe last year.

If, as expected, the EC's transport commissioner, Karel van Miert, demands that they either freeze the fares for at least a year or manages to persuade the Commission to claw back what he regards as the excessive charges, a dispute which could end in the European courts seems inevitable.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

HIGH HOPES



Trade, sport, the arts... and now the Miss World contest. Restrictions against South Africa have been lifted and Miss South Africa — Diana Tilden-Davis, aged 22 — is aiming for the crown. Modern Times, page 10

STAGE STRUCK



"There was no point drinking if it didn't make you want to sing or cry or fight." The Irish playwright Billy Roche, hailed by Benedict Nightingale as the best for decades, grew up in a bar. Page 16

OPEN POLICY



"People still think that knowing their new partner's sexual history is being able to say they know his or her cousin or brother. It's simply incredible," says Margaret Jay, director of the National AIDS Trust. Page 17

IDEAS MAN



The Italians want to change their political system, as, in his way, did St Francis, whose birthplace, Assisi, is threatened by decay and earthquake damage. A special report on Italy. Pages 33-38

Musical Boxes at Garrard

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Births, marriages	20,21
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Crosswords	22,24
Law Report	43
Letters	19
Obituaries	20
Parliament	9
TV & radio	23
Weather	24

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in The Times' 16-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.



Opposition leader dismisses plebiscite as a 'dilemma bypass' for politicians

Kinnock rules out referendum idea

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

NEIL Kinnock yesterday joined John Major in ruling out a referendum on European monetary union, suggesting it was a luxury for politicians trying to escape from a dilemma.

As Mr Major prepared for crucial meetings today in Bonn and Rome with Helmut Kohl and Giulio Andreotti, the Labour leader said the referendum idea was coming from those who wanted a vendetta within the Conservative party and those who wanted a "dilemma bypass".

Douglas Hurd warned Conservative backbenchers at a private meeting that it was now impossible to say whether a deal would be reached at Maastricht as Rudi Lubbers, the European Community president, cast doubt on the survival of the "opt-out" clause for Britain over monetary union.

Mr Kinnock said that a referendum called at the time Britain was ready to join a single currency would be held against the background of the conditions needed for monetary union having been achieved. In those circumstances, the only serious question that could be posed was whether people wanted to remain in the community or not: yet public opinion was

strongly in favour of remaining in the community.

Mr Major's talks with the Italian prime minister today will centre on monetary union, Community competence in social policy and the Anglo-Italian plan for European defence. With Chancellor Kohl there will be discussions on the powers of the European Parliament, where Germany is still pressing for greater concessions than Britain is willing to concede, on the extension of Community competence and qualified majority voting, and on the transitional arrangements for monetary union.

Although Mr Major is pledged not to sign any treaty arising from the Maastricht talks that includes reference to a "federal goal" for the Community, Britain is not negotiating on that front before the summit. Britain does not want her partners to be encouraged to believe that removal of the term, which it regards as ridiculously vague, is something for which concessions can be sought from the UK in return. Downing Street says that it "should not be beyond the wit of man" to remove the reference without major confrontation.

President Mitterrand will come to London next Mon-

day for a working lunch with the prime minister. Mr Major is planning further pre-Maastricht talks with Charles Haughey, the Irish Taoiseach, and Mr Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister.

Whitehall was cautious in its interpretation yesterday of a *Financial Times* interview with Mr Lubbers in which he suggested that any opt-out clause for Britain should be accompanied by a commitment signed by all to the "political mission" of the Community in the shape of monetary union by 1997. That is precisely the kind of clear commitment to the principle of a single currency so vehemently opposed by Margaret Thatcher.

Downing Street has been warning that the much-discussed escape hatch for Britain on monetary union is not "in the bag", and France, Germany and Italy are all opposed to the "opt-out" wording (or "opt-in" clause as the prime minister now pointedly calls it) in the present treaty draft.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Major declined to retaliate against Mrs Thatcher for her attack on his referendum stance. But he said he was not prepared to turn his back on Europe and forfeit Britain's right to influence the Community.

At his press conference Mr Kinnock underlined Labour's opposition to the opt-out clause. He said: "There is no question of any British government undertaking a movement into monetary union without referring to the parliament of the United Kingdom." He attacked as nonsense the idea that being part of a process that could lead to monetary union meant that Britain was surrendering control over economic policy.

Taunted in the Commons over the Labour abstentions in last week's debate, Mr Kinnock said that they were entitled to their opinions but he hoped they would take into account what conditions would be if Britain sought to exclude herself from the process under way in the EC.

Leading article, page 19

Defence plans upset Thatcher

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MARGARET Thatcher widened her rift with John Major yesterday by making thinly veiled criticisms of the government's planned defence cuts.

Speaking in Kuwait at the end of a four-day visit, Mrs Thatcher cited Iraq's invasion as evidence of the need to maintain strong defences in an uncertain world. It was an object lesson to present and future generations.

Although she made no direct reference to the government's plans to reduce the army by 40,000 men over three years, her remarks on

Kuwait television will be seen as a further sign of her disenchantment at the course of events since her resignation.

"If we are to be able to take action to stop any dictator in the future, we must continue to keep defences strong and take the right decisions now," Mrs Thatcher said.

Tom King, the defence secretary, outlined the planned cutbacks while Mrs Thatcher was in power. The tenor of her remarks yesterday suggests that she believes they should have been scaled down in the light of the Gulf war.



Flag waving: Professor Roger Scruton, left, and Andrew Dodge leave the Reform Club yesterday after a day-long meeting of the Bruges Group

Government faces stricter test on use of gagging writs

Lawyers hail Spycatcher ruling

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE government will face a new stricter test in the courts that takes greater heed of the public interest when it seeks gagging writs to stop the free flow of information after the European Court of Human Rights ruling yesterday.

The unanimous ruling by the Strasbourg court was hailed by lawyers as a significant development in line with other recent cases in Europe that will make it harder for states to ban the publication

of information available outside the country.

Until now, when considering an injunction, the courts have applied a test of "the balance of convenience". Yesterday the European court indicated that that was not sufficient. It said that courts must take into account whether there was a pressing social need for a ban.

The court said that the dangers of "prior restraints" such as that obtained against *The Guardian* and *Observer* were such that they called for the most careful scrutiny. "This is especially so as far as the press is concerned, for news is a perishable commodity and to delay its publication, even for a short period, may well deprive it of all its value and interest."

The ruling was also seen as part of a trend in which the law on freedom of information is increasingly being shaped in a European rather than a narrow national context. Peter Duffy, a practising barrister and specialist in European and human rights law, said: "This is a very important decision. It seems to me that it touches on the extent to which a state now has the ability to shut out information freely circulating elsewhere, or an individual's right to obtain information available elsewhere. States are going to have to show very good grounds before they can justify any restriction on the free flow of information across boundaries."

Other lawyers made similar predictions. James Michael, senior lecturer in communications law at University College London, said that it would be far harder for a government to restrain information arising from a breach of confidence. The ruling also recognised the reality "that news is perishable".

Jennifer McDermott, a partner with Lovell White Durrant and solicitor for *The*

Guardian, said: "After five years of litigation the balance has shifted in favour of the press. It will be far harder for the government to obtain gagging writs in Spycatcher-type cases. The government will have to provide a pressing social need instead of merely stating they require a ban."

According to Mr Duffy, the ruling is the latest in a line of cases that show how the law on press freedom is being treated increasingly in an international context. He cited a recent Swiss case before the European Court of Human Rights in which the court found an attempt to stop someone receiving a satellite broadcast was an unacceptable interference with freedom of information.

In addition, there was now an EC directive that dealt with the regulation of broadcasting activities and included access to television and the

right of reply, which again put a "European gloss" on the standards that apply in the area of restraints on information, he said.

Court verdict, page 1
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Law Report, page 43



Wright book caused government anguish

MI5 links gave Wright credence

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE memoirs of Peter Wright caused anguish for the government, not so much for the contents but for the fact that it was a former senior officer of MI5, the security service, who was the author.

Many of the allegations in *Spycatcher* had appeared in other books but this time they were being supposedly authenticated by an insider. Mr Wright detailed how MI5 agents in his time "bugged" their way around London. He described how thousands of keys had been made to gain entry into offices, hotels and private houses.

He claimed the most extensive bugging operation was at

Lancaster House, the government building that hosted the colonial conferences in the Fifties and Sixties. He said the bugging system was used whenever high level diplomatic negotiations took place in London. The British Communist party headquarters was also bugged. So, too, was the French embassy.

The book also includes a detailed description of the inner workings of MI5, including the naming of dozens of former officers. Perhaps most controversial of all, Mr Wright wrote of the investigations MI5 carried out into Harold Wilson when he became prime minister, after a defector claimed to the CIA that he was a Soviet agent.

Kapoor wins Turner prize

Anish Kapoor, aged 37, the Bombay-born British sculptor, has won the Turner prize, becoming the sixth winner and the fourth member of the group known as New British Sculptors to be given the leading award for new art.

The art critic Robert Hughes presented him with a cheque for £20,000 at the Tate Gallery. The other short-listed artists were two abstract painters, Fiona Rae, aged 28, Ian Davenport, aged 25, and another sculptor, Rachel Whiteread, aged 28. Channel 4 sponsors the award.

Case dropped

A man who had spent 18 months in jail facing a charge of murdering a missing woman was freed at Liverpool crown court after the prosecution decided to offer no evidence. The prosecution dropped the case against Colin English, aged 31, a computer designer of Seaford, Sussex, when the judge ruled for the defence after two weeks of legal argument over police evidence.

Ordered out

Peter Julien, an interior designer who persuaded the social security department to pay his mortgage interest of £1,784 a week after his business failed, was given a week to leave his £700,000 home in Hampstead, northwest London, or be evicted. The Court of Appeal dismissed his appeal against a possession order by the Town and Country Building Society.



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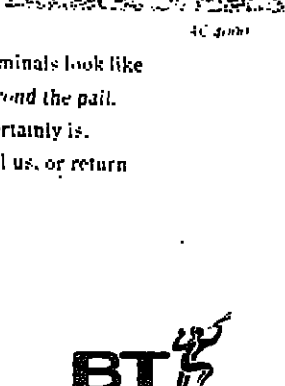
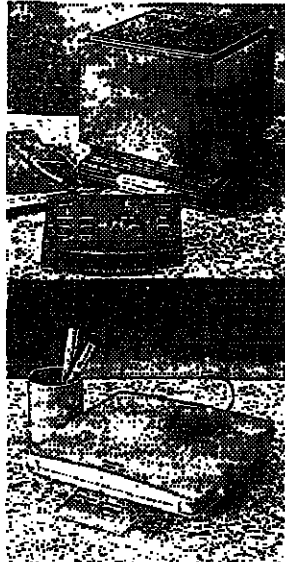
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Children's home head guilty of sexual abuse

BY CRAIG SETON

A FORMER senior social worker accused of running "a reign of terror" at three council-run children's homes was yesterday found guilty of sexually abusing three boys in his care and physically assaulting one.

Frank Beck, aged 49, who was officer in charge of residential homes run by the social services department of Leicester county council between 1973 and 1986, was acquitted by the jury of three further counts of alleged sexual abuse, indecent assault and causing actual bodily harm to children formerly in his care.

The four guilty verdicts came after the jury had been deliberating for almost two

days. The trial of Beck and two co-defendants is in its 11th week.

Peter Jaynes, aged 41, of Chatham, Kent, Beck's former deputy, was found guilty of one charge of indecent assault on a boy and one of causing actual bodily harm to a girl. He faces another charge of indecent assault.

George Lincoln, aged 38, a former residential social worker, of Sudbury, Suffolk, faces a joint charge with Beck of serious sexual assault.

The jury has still to return its verdict on a further 20 charges against Beck, a former Royal Marine. Eight of the charges relate to allegations of serious sexual assault, six to indecent assault, three to grievous bodily harm, and one to rape. The alleged victims were children in care, and two social workers.

The jury will resume deliberations today after a second night in an hotel.

Beck has denied all the charges. Earlier, he was found not guilty of five charges on the directions of Mr Justice Jowitt.

The prosecution has alleged that Beck sexually and physically abused children as young as eight at the three homes in Leicester and Market Harborough.

Beck was found guilty of seriously sexually assaulting David Hunt while the teenager was in care during the Seventies at the Ratcliffe Road Home in Leicester.

Beck was also convicted of causing actual bodily harm to Mr Hunt, now aged 29. Mr Hunt said he had been taken by Beck to his private quarters, stripped and sexually abused. He also said that he had been physically assaulted after failing to work out a calculation for a rabbit hutch design.

Beck was further convicted of indecently assaulting another boy, Stefan Iwasiv, now aged 32 and married.

The former home head was also found guilty of attempting to indecently assault John Parker. Mr Parker alleged during the trial that Beck had abused him in his room at a care home.

The trial continues today.

Murder plot girl jailed

A GIRL hired by a family to murder their step-father as he slept was yesterday given three years' youth custody for conspiracy to murder.

The attempt by Louise Price, aged 19, to murder Terrence Reeves failed. The three family members who hired Price were also jailed on conspiracy charges. Passing sentence Mr Justice Rougier told them at Oxford Crown Court: "This was a dreadful crime, a wicked crime."

Price had been offered an £8,000 share of Mr Reeves' £40,000 life insurance policy to carry out the murder planned by his wife Christina, 44, step-daughter Denise Cresswell and her husband David. But Price, of Blackbird Leys, Oxford, bungled her stabbing attack and Mr Reeves, of Wheatley, Oxfordshire, recovered.

Mrs Reeves, now of Littlemore, Oxfordshire, was jailed for two years. Her step-daughter Denise Cresswell, aged 21, and her husband David, aged 23, of Radley, Oxfordshire, were jailed for two years and 18 months respectively.

Life for husband who cooked wife

THE HUSBAND who killed, dismembered and cooked the remains of his young Filipino wife was jailed for life yesterday. John Perry, aged 52, of Higher Kinnerton, Clwyd, had denied murder on the grounds of provocation but was found guilty by a jury at Mold Crown Court.

Mr Justice Scott Baker told him: "You set about dismembering her mortal remains with a chilling and ruthless efficiency which included cooking most of the pieces. There is evidence that, had you not been arrested, those pieces would have disappeared for ever in the acid tanks of your place of work. You have not shown one shred of remorse."

The jury took five hours 15 minutes to arrive at its 10-2 majority verdict and Perry swayed slightly when he heard its decision. The eight men and four women had listened for a week to harrowing evidence of how Perry, an aircraft engineer, set about disposing of his wife's body. He admitted that he killed

her and cut her body up before cooking it in their bungalow's double oven.

Perry had said that when he strangled his wife she did not struggle, but the prosecution said that one of his motives in dissecting her body was to conceal a more violent and bloodier assault.

The court was told that Perry found out on the day that he killed Annabelle, aged 27, known as Annabelle, that she had been having an affair with a neighbour.

The judge had warned jurors to put aside their feelings of horror and disgust. He said that they might think that the case was not entirely a black and white choice of Perry planning to kill his wife that Sunday night or killing her with no forethought.

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Held in trust: one of the two wings at Goddards modelled on traditional Surrey cottages and overlooking the Jekyll gardens

Family gift opens Lutyens gem to public

BY SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

GODDARDS, one of Sir Edwin Lutyens's best preserved houses, has been given to the Lutyens Trust and will be the first to be fully open to the public.

Lutyens, England's most celebrated architect since Wren, built the house at Abinger Common, Surrey, in 1898 in collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll, the garden designer. The house was designed, at the behest

of Sir Frederick Milreides, a shipping magnate, as a "home of rest for ladies of small means", complete with common room and skittle alley. Although Lutyens converted Goddards into a six-bedroom home for Sir Frederick's son, Donald, in 1910, it remains well preserved.

The house has been given to the trust by Bill Hall, a chairman of Hall and Co, a coal and builders' merchant, who bought Goddards, in 1953 and restored it with local materials, as used by

Lutyens. Now aged 82, Mr Hall can no longer care for the house as he would like and, after his wife broke her hip, they decided to move closer to their daughter, a doctor, in Plymouth.

"Goddards is as Lutyens left it in 1910," Mr Hall said yesterday. "I have seen so many Lutyens houses being spoiled by people who didn't know how to look after them. My wife and I were determined to give it to someone who could care for it. We are members of the Lutyens

Trust, and it seemed the perfect solution."

Goddards, which is given to the trust in the name of Lee Hall, the Hall's son who died of cancer three years ago, is the first property to be owned by the trust, which was formed in 1985. Colin Amery, the architectural historian and trust chairman, said: "The house is a gem and the gift is extraordinarily generous. If we had had our choice of Lutyens houses, this is the one we would pick."

A resident curator is to be appointed and the trust is appealing for £500,000 to create a foundation for the upkeep. Goddards is expected to open in the spring.

Barlaston Hall in Staffordshire, bought by Save Britain's Heritage for £1 from Wedgwood in 1981 to prevent its demolition, is for sale after the largest restoration project the group has tackled (Christopher Warman writes). The house, built in 1756-8, has a guide price of £325,000 through the agent Jackson-Stops & Staff.

Pressure mounts from traders who want Sunday till bells to ring for Christmas

Muddle clutters shop shelves

BY FRANCES GIBBS AND RAY CLANCY

TESCO

ASDA - MFI

SAFeway

THE threat of what is becoming an annual revolt over Sunday trading will increase pressure on ministers to sort out the legal disarray before Christmas, perhaps temporarily lifting the prohibitions of the Shops Act.

The pressure comes not only from exasperated British traders. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is believed to have headed off moves by the European Commission to impose limits on the working week and to outlaw Sunday trading.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, has sought talks with Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, on how the government would waive the much-criticised Shops Act 1950 for two or three Sundays before Christmas.

A High Court ruling last month effectively put a stop to further Sunday trading prosecutions, pending a decision expected within 12 months by the European Court of Justice on a test appeal by the DIY chain B & Q, referred by the House of Lords.

Mr Justice Brooke overruled decisions by magistrates' courts in Coventry and Tunbridge Wells which had listed Sunday trading cases against Woolworth and Comet for trial. He said that it was impossible for JPs to determine the issues without guidance from the European court.

Prosecutions over Sunday trading had already diminished. In the run-up to Christmas last year, only 14 out of 401 local authorities in Eng-

land and Wales launched prosecutions against 54 stores for breaches of the act.

Any willingness to prosecute was dealt a further blow by a Court of Appeal decision in April that temporary injunctions were invalid unless local authorities obtaining them undertook to compensate for lost earnings should they eventually lose.

The risk of having to compensate a large DIY chain for loss of earnings which could amount to £500,000 a year per shop effectively blocked the possibility of going to court for many councils.

Since the Court of Appeal ruling most councils have dropped prosecutions against stores opening on Sundays. A handful have continued but are adjourned.

Thousands of branches of the major high street stores, as well as small shops, are expected to open every Sunday from now until Christmas.

John Ashkan, a lawyer who advises B & Q, Comet, Woolworth and Superdrug, said that he believed they would not be flouting the law.

"I have been advising them that they are not breaking the criminal law by opening on a Sunday because the Shops Act is inconsistent with the Treaty of Rome. In this respect it seems very difficult for any local authority to claim they are flouting the law this Christmas. It is very unlikely that councils will be seeking injunctions," he said.

Two weeks after the appeal court ruling, the House of Lords decided to seek further guidance from the European Court of Justice on the validity of restrictions under European law in a test case appeal by B & Q.

The chain is appealing against a High Court ruling by Mr Justice Hoffmann last July that Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich councils were entitled to permanent injunctions to stop unlawful trading by B & Q stores in Hanley and Norwich.

It had been hoped that the appeal would clarify the law. But the reference to the European court in Luxembourg means that a final decision is unlikely until after the general election.

Another case, arising from prosecution by the local authority in Reading, Berkshire, was referred last year to the European court by a stipendiary magistrate shortly after Mr Justice Hoffmann's decision in the Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich case. The Reading case is still awaiting a hearing by the European court.

John Major made clear his views in December last year that the Sunday trading laws

were "bizarre" and "widely felt to be unsatisfactory". No mention of reform was made in the Queen's Speech, although it is high on the agenda if the Conservatives win the election. Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, has held talks with interested parties, but has not yet drawn up proposals for changing the act.

One option would be a free-for-all on Sundays by suspending the 1950 act until the Luxembourg court rules next year on whether it breaches European law.

Another possibility would be to use a provision of the act which allows the home secretary to suspend the restrictions on shop hours during the Christmas season. A further option would be to encourage local authorities to take advantage of a little-used power under the act to permit shops' selling groceries to open. Department stores could open their food halls but would not be allowed to sell other goods.

Defiant shops, page 11

Orkney man tells of sons' ordeal

BY KERRY GILL

A FATHER described yesterday how social workers and police refused to allow his two children to go to the lavatory, to have breakfast or to take toys with them when they were seized from their Orkney home after claims that they had been sexually abused.

The father, the first parent to give evidence to the judicial enquiry into how nine children were taken from their homes, also said that his elder son was taken to a residential school housing young offenders, where his wife feared that the boy might be sexually abused or catch AIDS.

Describing the raid in February on the island of South Ronaldsay, he accused the social workers of unkindness and of a lack of professionalism. The father, aged 45 and known as M for legal reasons, said that he and his wife were woken at dawn by a knock on their farmhouse door. They were confronted by five police officers and three social workers.

He said that one policeman offered his identification card, but none of the social workers had any. The couple's two sons, JM, aged 15, and SM, aged 12, were among the children taken on February 27 amid allegations that a paedophile ring was operating on the island.

Mr M said that he asked if he could give the boys a book or a teddy bear, but was told he could not. He said the social workers did nothing to minimise the children's trauma. "The speed, manner and unkindness of how it was done was not good social work practice. I considered it was not done in a professional manner."

The enquiry continues today.

Sabbath becomes Scots' day to buy

THIS Sunday, as on any other Sunday, Scots will be able to buy anything from a bag of potatoes to a bathroom suite. However, if they ask for a haircut or a bottle of wine for dinner, they will be shown the door (Kerry Gill writes).

While authorities south of the border anguish over whether to prosecute illegal Sunday traders, the streets of Scottish town centres will be as busy as on any weekday. From now until the Sunday before Christmas, shopping will be a regular family pastime because the Shops Act of 1950 never applied in Scotland.

The act, it was thought, need not cover Scotland, because the Presbyterian tradition would never countenance anything but rest and prayer on the Sabbath. There was, however, a rider: section 67 (1) made it an offence to open a hairdresser's or a barber's shop in Scotland. No one seems to know why that was put in the act, except that some barbers in the 1930s

had lobbied for a ban on Sunday hairdressing. Licensing law, although eased in the 1970s, still forbids off-sales on Sunday. A man may drink all day in a public house but is forbidden to take a bottle home.

Supermarkets have been opening every Sunday for several years, with the alcohol sections roped off. Each year, they are joined by the vast majority of high street traders, anxious to share the recent boom in pre-Christmas Sunday trading. Glasgow can be busier on Sunday than on any other day before Christmas because motorists take advantage of the lack of parking restrictions.

Although some people still object on religious grounds and it is feared that shop staff may be forced to work, Sunday shopping has become a family pastime. Catriona Reynolds, of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said: "It is seen as a leisure pursuit, the one day on which families can get together to do shopping."

Smile and hope the world travels with you

THE fixed smiles on the faces of 17,000 representatives of resorts, hotels and airlines from 140 countries who had been charged with selling their particular product to 2,000 travel agents at Olympia yesterday said the more about the state of the world industry than statistics ever could.

There was an air of almost tangible optimism on the 3,000 stands at the World Travel Market, the annual travel bazaar at which those who sell holidays can see at who sell holidays can see at who sell holidays can see at

products and people that the resorts to which 11 million send more than 11 million holidaymakers each year.

After a year of relentless decline in the number of tourists, which resulted in widespread bankruptcies throughout what is now the world's biggest industry,

Harvey Elliott joins the thousands at a banquet whose one message is, "Wish you were spending here"

even the slightest sign of an upturn was cause for celebration.

From Essex, where tourists are determined to bury jokes about the country with the help of an EC grant, to South Africa, which is convinced that it will be the big growth destination of 1992, travel agents and tour operators were being bombarded with the hard sell.

Essex was determined to cash in on its notoriety with a stand extolling the virtues of family holidays and conference facilities. "Essex is

not all white stilettoes and shell suits," Edward Gregory, tourism officer, said. "Essex Man is just a product of journalistic imagination of journalists like Essex Man and Essex Girl. There are a number of exciting new initiatives which we are developing for next year."

No stand was busier than South Africa's, although that may have had much to do with the presence of Miss South Africa, 22-year-old Diana Tilden-Davies, a statuesque blue-eyed blonde who will represent the country in this year's Miss World contest as South Africa's first representative for 14 years.

Last year, about 140,000 Britons visited South Africa. This year the number rose 8 per cent, and with 60 tour operators now including its resorts in their brochures, a further 15 per cent

increase is confidently predicted. Among the throng on the stand, shared by more than 50 South African companies and hotels, there was not one black face, although Miss Tilden-Davies claimed that this was more surprising to outsiders than to South Africans, whose tourism industry is still largely run by whites.

The United States took centre stage in the halls, where a stand can cost £200,000 for the week-long jamboree, and were convinced that they would boost sales next year, especially to the Texas ranches whose popularity is rising sharply.

The prize for sheer bravado, however, went to Slovenia. Fifteen sales staff from the newly independent republic, which only in June was at virtual war with its

neighbours, were handing out brochures urging travel agents to send visitors to "your holidayland on the sunny side of the Alps".

The fact that the Foreign Office is still warning tourists not to visit the ravaged country was glossed over. "There was a war in June, but now the army has gone and all is peaceful," Misha Cebulj of the Slovenian Tourist Board, said.

Even the Falklands Islands, which last year drew only 2,000 staying tourists and 1,500 day-trippers from cruise ships, thought it essential to be at the show, whose popularity with the trade has grown so much in the past five years that it is to move to Earls Court next year. It is hoped that, by then, the optimism of yesterday's first day will have been justified.

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**A new dawn for
the heart of London.**

Parents 'find £55m a year for schools'

BY DAVID TYLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS are finding at least £55 million a year from their own pockets to provide books and equipment for national curriculum lessons, according to a report published by parents and teachers yesterday.

Extra government funds are urgently required if school standards in England and Wales are to improve, said the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations. It claimed that more than half the pupils in the 24,000 state schools in England and Wales were sharing books and working in badly maintained buildings.

The survey represented 8 per cent of the school population, covering a quarter of the 8,000 confederation's members. James Hammond, its secretary and author of the report, said: "Schools are now making direct approaches to parents asking them to bail out the state education system. In the past two years, nearly half have asked for money to buy textbooks, pencils and classroom materials — three times the proportion five years ago."

"Parents want to contribute to their child's school, but the problem is that what happens when poor parents can't afford to give and children in state schools miss out on essentials," Mr Hammond said. "The quality of state education was under threat as schools struggled with inadequate budgets, crumbling buildings and shortages of specialist teachers, books and resources."

Rejecting the report, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said: "This is yet another round robin whose findings are very strange. The main complaint is that education is underfunded, yet this government is allowing for 16 per cent more spending in 1991-2 than in the previous year, very substantially higher than the rate of inflation. The association has been a consistent critic of the government over the years. The picture of unremitting doom and gloom is in stark contrast to the huge increase in our investment in education."

Mr Hammond said that there had been little improvement since the association's 1985 report. Three out of ten schools said that their buildings and decoration had deteriorated during the past five years. Four out of ten parents complained that there were insufficient teachers and that many were unqualified to teach certain subjects, such as maths.

The report said: "Far too many schools are grossly overstretched and despite recent reports of decreasing vacancies, not nearly enough is being done to recruit, retain and motivate the teachers upon whom all else depends."

There was a direct connection between the achievement of pupils and the surrounding in which they were taught, the report said. Mr Hammond added: "Massive investment, billions, not millions, of pounds are needed to put this problem right."

Marilyn Kinnon, head of the 112-pupil Monkton Hadley primary school, Barnet, north London, said that her school could not offer a complete education without the £10,000 parents had provided over the past two and a half years. In the past 12 months they had given £2,000 for four computers, £2,600 for books and equipment, and they provided £1,000 a year for secretarial assistance to cope

with the introduction of local school management. Mrs Kinnon said: "Parents are now helping with cash flow to meet the shortfalls in the school's budget. The logical extension of this is that they will eventually be asked to subsidise the salary of a teacher."

Mr Clarke confirmed that children studying for GCSE will be able to choose between history and geography or do a short course in both subjects. Under the national curriculum the two subjects will remain compulsory for state pupils aged from five to 14.

Mr Clarke said that his proposals would ensure that children met the curriculum requirements but would also give them time to study other subjects.

Year	Primary schools			Secondary schools		
	No. of pupils	Cash spent (£)	£ per pupil	No. of pupils	Cash spent (£)	£ per pupil
1985	125,029	713,854	5.71	123,185	340,988	2.77
1986	145,301	819,008	5.64	143,234	445,700	3.11
1987	174,005	1,067,183	6.08	185,533	564,366	3.04
1988	208,182	1,436,674	6.90	204,480	761,341	3.72
1989	243,170	1,944,156	7.99	219,708	914,821	4.16
1990	253,850	2,164,759	8.53	224,375	1,082,212	4.82

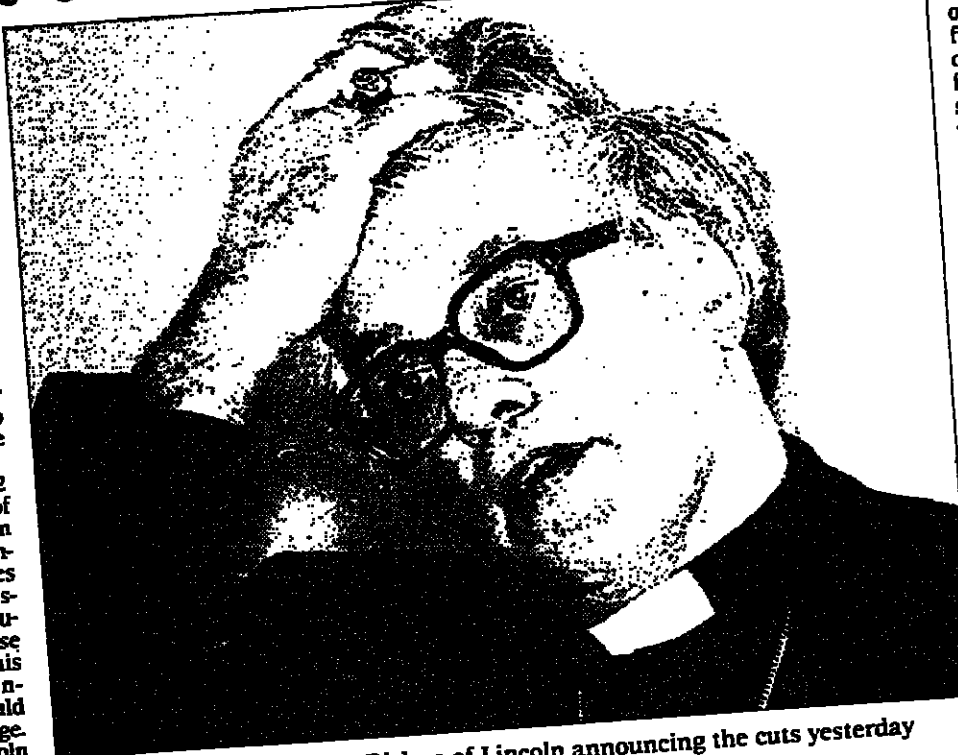
Clergy jobs fall prey to earthly woes

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

ONE in ten clergy jobs is to go in the Lincoln diocese, it was announced yesterday. The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, said that the cuts were part of a reorganisation of the diocese to cope with the financial difficulties affecting the Church of England throughout the country. He gave a warning that other dioceses could be forced to take similar steps over the coming months.

Lincoln, which at 2,672 square miles is the largest of the 43 Anglican dioceses in Britain, is the second to announce clergy job losses since the Church Commissioners cut their contributions to clergy pay because of the recession. Earlier this year, Chelmsford announced that 20 jobs would go through natural wastage.

The scale of the Lincoln reorganisation goes beyond anything contemplated in the church and will involve changing parish boundaries and fundamentally rethinking how ministry is put into practice. Lincoln has led the way in using lay members to help to run parishes and that is likely to become more widespread in the diocese. More than 30 clergy posts out of 312 will be lost through natural wastage. Vicarages will be sold and vacant livings suspended for five years for reorganisation. Meanwhile, clergy will be installed as



Worrying times: the Bishop of Lincoln announcing the cuts yesterday

priests-in-charge, with none of the automatic rights such as a "job for life" which go with the freehold. The number of archdeacons will be cut from three to two.

The Right Rev David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby, said:

"As soon as deaneries come up with a coherent plan, it will be possible to lift the suspension of freehold and put people in on a permanent basis."

Parishes and deaneries are being asked to submit

plans to the Church Commissioners for approval. The operation could take about five years, the time the bishop is allowed to suspend freehold livings for reorganisation under the 1983 Pastoral Measure.

The diocese faces some of the most serious problems that were highlighted in the recent report *Faith in the Countryside*. Half the parishes have populations under 350. Only three dioceses are less densely populated but Lincoln has 666 churches, the second highest figure in the country.

The Bishop of Lincoln said in his report, *New Times, New Ways*, that the old pattern of the church was collapsing in the face of a spreading suburban attitude "which sees the vicar as just another shopkeeper, selling a particular form of religion or hobby amongst other denominations and spare-time interests".

Ian Davey, chairman of the diocese's board of finance, said that each parish was being asked to increase giving next year by a quarter to meet clergy pay. The commissioners, who will give Lincoln about a fifth of its £5.5 million budget next year, are cutting their contribution by 10 per cent for the next two years.

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Ministry accused of cover-up over death of marine

How The Times reported the Ferrante case

MoD urged to relax secrecy

BY TONY DAW AND JOHN WINDER

A CAMPAIGN is gathering pace to persuade the defence ministry to end the secrecy that surrounds the death of servicemen on training exercises.

Jonathan Sayeed, Conservative MP for Bristol East and a former naval officer, called for an independent inquiry into such accidents and to decide how much evidence could be made public.

Mr Sayeed said that few of the accidents involved national security yet the ministry was often reluctant to disclose the full circumstances to relatives. Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, is also keen that the Commons defence select committee, which he chairs, should examine whether an independent element and less secrecy can be introduced into the enquiries.

The campaign comes in the wake of several cases in which parents claim to have been misled over their children's deaths, including that of a Royal Marine reservist, Simon Ferrante, reported in The Times this month.

During a Commons ad-

journalism debate early yesterday, Mr Sayeed said that Mr Ferrante's parents had received "inadequate answers" about the accident. He said that Mr Ferrante died two years ago from injuries received on a parachute jump, but his parents had not been told that he had also hit his head on a jump three days earlier.

"It was an accident but not necessarily an unavoidable accident," the MP said. He added that a more thorough medical investigation after the first incident might have saved the man's life.

The "understandable climate of secrecy within the MoD" was allowed to encroach on areas where it should have no place, Mr Sayeed said. A senior independent judge should be appointed to decide in what form and how much, and to whom, evidence from the enquiry is released.

Archie Hamilton, armed forces minister, neither rejected nor supported the idea and said that the overriding importance in all cases was to establish the facts as quickly as possible because lives might depend on that. Enquiry procedures were devised to encourage witnesses to come forward and to be candid.

The minister said that his department had no objection to the reopening of the inquiry, sought by Mr Ferrante's father, Russell, adding: "My department will not attempt to evade responsibility should negligence be established."

Russell Ferrante, who listened to the debate, said: "I was encouraged by what I heard. I now believe my family and I are some way towards getting the full truth." He instructed solicitors yesterday to press ahead with his request for a new inquest and with a medical negligence claim against the ministry.

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Sister Superior

Cancer's link with diet scrutinised

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Correspondent

WHAT is claimed to be the world's biggest investigation into the links between diet and cancer was launched in London yesterday with the aim of saving more than 40,000 lives a year in Britain alone through changes in eating habits.

The study — involving 400,000 people in eight European countries, including 85,000 in the UK — will try to identify food elements that protect against cancer as well as those causing it.

The project's findings are expected to alter substantially consumers' attitudes towards diet and to have big implications for government policies on food subsidies and health education. Researchers believe that while no more than 40 per cent of cancer deaths

are due to smoking, 70 per cent could be related to diet. Elio Riboli, of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, said that diet was suspected of involvement in cancers of the lung, breast, bowel, stomach, prostate, pancreas, bladder and oesophagus. David Forman, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which is playing a leading role in the project, said that dietary change might prevent nine out of ten deaths from bowel and stomach tumours, saving 23,000 lives a year in Britain, and could halve breast cancer deaths in the UK, saving at least 7,000 lives a year.

People that ate one piece of fruit a day had a 30 to 50 per cent less risk of stomach cancer, he said. "If the entire population had a similar level of intake, between 17 and 33 per cent of stomach cancers could be prevented."

Scientists know that a diet rich in fruit and vegetables, cereals, fish and olive oil has a protective effect, while there is evidence that consumption of high levels of salt and fatty meats trigger the onset of tumours. But more definitive information is needed.

People recruited for the study, called Epic (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer), will give blood and urine samples, answer questionnaires, and provide a diet diary. They will be followed up to see which diseases develop. The first findings are expected in about five years.

CANCER DEATHS

Number of cancer deaths possibly avoided by dietary change in England and Wales

Types of cancer	Avoidable deaths (%)	No
Lung	20	5,916
Bowel	50	15,153
Stomach	50	6,004
Prostate	10	785
Pancreas	50	3,058
Oesophagus	20	1,002
Bladder	20	950

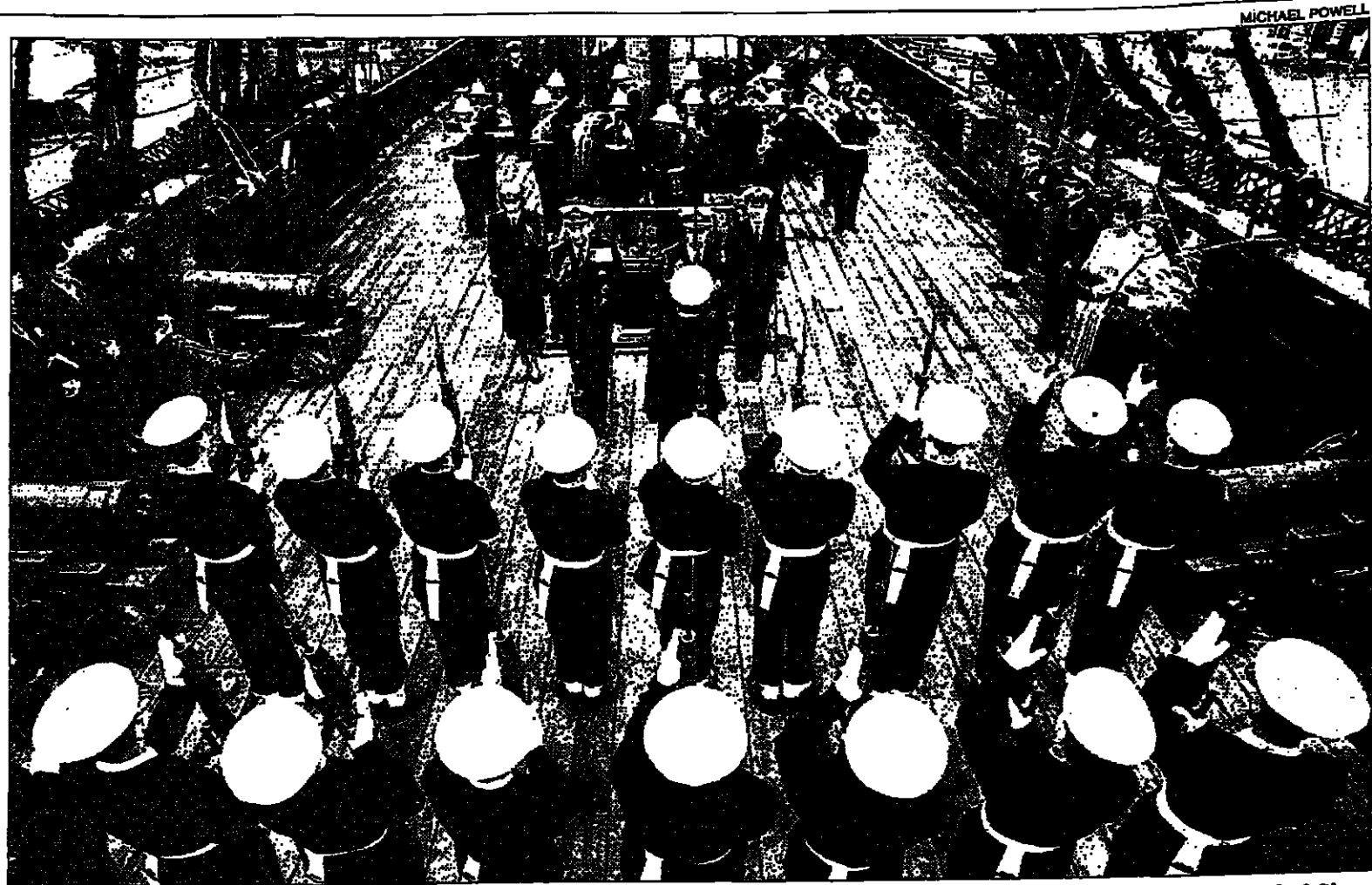
Source: EPIC

Alcohol warning sought

ALCOHOLIC drinks should carry a health warning and prices should be raised at least in line with inflation, the Royal College of Physicians said yesterday (Our Medical Correspondent writes).

The recommendations are needed to combat alcohol-related deaths, disease and injuries, Professor Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, president of the college, said. "The Stroke Association, a new charity, said yesterday that a stroke was Britain's third most common cause of death after heart disease and cancer, claiming 62,000 lives a year and costing about £1 billion in treatment."

The number of adult smokers is still falling but more men than women are stopping, says the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Only three in ten adults now regularly smoke, a 2 per cent fall between 1988 and 1990.



Sea change: Admiral Sir John Kerr, the new Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, right, and his predecessor Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, who is retiring, at the formal change of command ceremony yesterday on the deck of HMS Victory, Portsmouth

Don condemns idea of elite research unit

By John O'Leary, Higher Education Correspondent

PLANS to establish a graduate school at University College London have prompted criticism from an academic, who fears that a new system of colleges will develop.

The basis of the college's proposal will be put to a London University planning group tomorrow. The college is still discussing details, but the school would concentrate postgraduate teaching and research into a unit designed to benefit from national changes in the allocation of research funds.

A paper by Derek Roberts, the college's provost, raises the prospect of some staff being employed to teach undergraduates only, while selected academics would be offered

membership of the graduate school as a base for their research and postgraduate teaching. The new school's strength would allow the college to exploit funding arrangements "at the expense of predominantly undergraduate teaching institutions".

Dr Roberts adds: "As part of such a development we should be willing to consider the transfer of some selected undergraduate teaching (students and staff) to other institutions, both to make the change more palatable, and to release space at UCL for graduate school expansion."

Professor Geoffrey Alderman, chairman of the university's academic council, described the plan as an insult to

the university. In a letter to Professor Stewart Sutherland, London's vice-chancellor, he said: "I am not prepared to countenance the creation at UCL of an elite research institution, at the expense of other schools of this university, and of those who research and teach — and who are taught — at them."

One of London's most renowned research units, the Institute of United States Studies, will today be saved from possible closure because of financial difficulties if the university council accepts a proposal that it should become independent. The institute has been part of the Institute for Historical Research for the past four years.

Tax on 'grockles' finds no favour

By Tim Jones

ALTHOUGH some of their golden beaches and footpaths over storm-tossed Atlantic coves are being trampled under foot, Penwith district council will tonight reject a proposal calling for tourists to be charged a tax for crossing the Tamar into Cornwall.

The Cornwall tourist board has already voted against the plan, deciding that the famous clotted cream may develop a slightly sour taste if holidaymakers — "grockles" as they are known locally — were asked to pay for visiting the county.

Some members of Penwith district council, which includes Land's End and St Ives, still believe, however, that it is not unreasonable to tax tourists to raise funds to

improve the environment. They argue that it is accepted practice in such locations as Turkey, Cyprus and Yugoslavia.

Although Cornwall has had a bad year for tourism, some of its most popular spots have had to be restricted to the public to allow them to be repaired. Earlier this year, the county council was told by Colin Griffin, the planning officer, that £3 million could be raised by levying £1 a head per visit.

His report was prepared after a consultation paper from the government which invited ideas for new council taxes to replace the community charge. It raised the possibility of specific local taxes or charges to meet local needs.

Libya says accusation needs time

LIBYA said yesterday that it needed more time to respond to Western charges that it masterminded the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie.

Abu Zaid Omar Darda, the prime minister, said during a visit to Egypt that the United States and Britain "spent long years preparing the charges, so we obviously need some time to deal with them from all angles and prepare an official response". He said that the US indictment of two Libyans for the bombing, which cost 270 lives, "does not contain any evidence against Libya".

In Edinburgh, Scotland's senior law officer rejected Libyan calls for an international enquiry into the bombing. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, Lord Advocate, said only a criminal trial was the "proper and civilised response".

Murder charge

Abdul Karim Jasim, aged 45, of Firilico, an Iraqi lecturer granted political asylum four years ago, was remanded in custody until December 3 at Horseferry Road magistrates court, London, charged with attempting to murder a woman neighbour with a hammer.

Twin pique

The Dorset market town of Sturminster Newton cancelled plans to twin with Lessey in Normandy, France, because farmers near by had attacked British lamb boxes. Instead, it is planning links with Pont-Hébert, in the same district.

Park killer

Police are looking for a killer who shot an unidentified middle-aged man in the head and dumped his body in a park pond at Westhead, east London.

Arson claim

The Welsh nationalist group Sons of Gwyl claimed responsibility for burning down a holiday cottage, belonging to a Welsh couple, near Trwyn-y-fydd, Gwynedd, last week.

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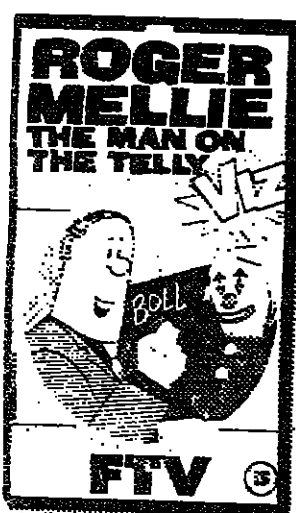
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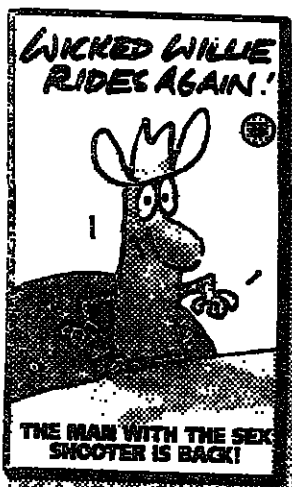
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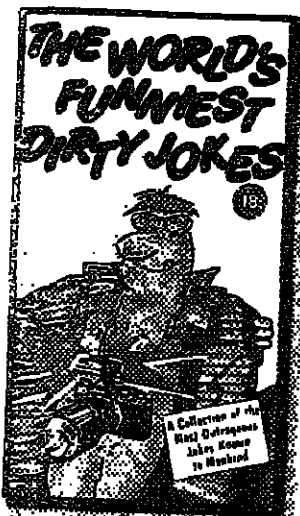
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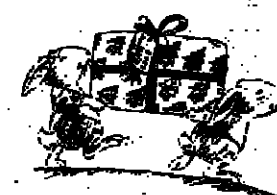


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Iraq 'hoodwinked government over supergun'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRADE department officials admitted yesterday that the government was the victim of a sophisticated deception by Iraq to acquire parts for a supergun.

They told the Commons trade and industry committee that systems for checking export controls failed to identify the potential military use of giant steel tubes ordered by the Iraqis from the Midlands-based Walter Somers and Sheffield Forgemasters.

For the first time, officials disclosed the trade and industry department's role in giving approval to the two firms

to export the tubes without a licence, provoking a dispute that has embarrassed Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, and his predecessor, Nicholas Ridley.

Under questioning from the committee, John Medway, head of the department's overseas trade division, said that his officials told the firms no licence was needed because no definite military application for the tubes could be established. The tubes were said by the companies to be for a petrochemical plant. The defence ministry had also been unable to confirm the ultimate use of the tubes.

A shipment of tubes destined for the Iraqi supergun project was seized later by customs officials. Mr Medway disclosed that if the shipment had gone ahead, the Iraqis could have finished building the long-range gun in 1989. Two sizes of tubes did reach Iraq from Britain and one ended in a gun that was test fired, he said.

He added: "What happened has shown up serious weaknesses in our system for resisting procurement efforts of that degree of sophistication." The timetable emerged as:

- June 1988: Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, warned the department of the possibility that the two firms were building missiles destined for Iraq;
- May 1989: a model of a supergun displayed at a military exhibition in Baghdad;
- November 1989: department told of a Project Babylon, which was thought to concern the export of cluster bombs to Iraq; and
- March 30, 1990: a meeting of the department's restrictive exports unit links the project with the orders placed with the two firms.

Merzies Campbell, Liberal

Ministry job rules tightened

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to tighten the rules governing the acceptance of jobs in the private sector by civil servants leaving Whitehall.

The revision of the regulations is aimed at countering lingering suspicions that conflicts of interest could occur between the nature of proposed outside employment and an official's government duties.

Under the new rules, officials working in areas of procurement or contract work will again be required to report any offer of employment from an outside employer who has, or may have, a commercial interest in that area of work.

In a reply to a report by the Treasury and civil service select committee, the government said: "The government accepts that there is a case, in the interests of maintaining public confidence in the system, for requiring all such approaches to be reported where staff involved in procurement or contract work are in contact with outside organisations, even when in practice they have no intention of entertaining the offer."

Heveningham fate to be decided soon

By JOHN WINDER

MICHAEL Heseltine will announce his decision soon on the government's option to buy Heveningham Hall, the eighteenth-century Palladian mansion in Suffolk. Whoever buys the hall would face a considerable liability and it was difficult to see a commercial future for it, Lady Blatch, the heritage minister, told the Lords yesterday.

She said that the hall will be subject to all the restrictions imposed on any Grade I listed building. The environment secretary had until December 11 to exercise his right to pre-emptive purchase and various options had to be considered.

Lady Birk, from the Labour front bench, said that the decisive date was only two weeks away and the matter had been going on for a long time. If Mr Heseltine did not exercise the option, the receiver responsible for the house

since the owners went into receivership in September would have to sell to the highest bidder, regardless of whether its new use was appropriate to its status. There would be no guarantee of public access, such as was contained in the covenant when the government sold it in 1981 to an Iraqi businessman who has since died.

She said that Mr Heseltine, who had been reported as regretting selling it in the first place, should buy it back and return to it its furniture that he had in his care.

Lord Mairiesford (C) said that an offer might have to be subjected to arbitration and it would be better to wait until a commercial phase, when the government would be able to buy it extremely cheaply and use the money available to endow the National Trust so that it could look after it for ever.

MPs will get free vote on fox-hunting

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



McNamara: overwhelming support for a ban

MPs are to be given a free vote on proposals to ban fox-hunting under a private member's bill to be brought before the Commons early in the new year.

Backers of the bill, which is being sponsored by Kevin McNamara, the Labour frontbencher, said yesterday that there was overwhelming public support for a ban on hunting with dogs. Pointing to a new Gallup poll indicating that four in five people supported abolition, they said they were confident of winning an unfettered vote in the Commons. Mr McNamara said that his bill would ensure the first full Commons debate on animal cruelty for 50 years.

He conceded that, with an election on the horizon, there was not enough parliamentary time left for his measure to become law next summer. But he added that his aim was to give Parliament an opportunity to debate the general principles of hunting and the protection of wild animals. His bill would outlaw such pursuits as fox-hunting, stag-hunting and hare-coursing. Farmers would

still be able to shoot foxes on their land.

The bill came under fire from the pro-hunting lobby in the Commons. Michael Colvin, Tory chairman of the Campaign for Country Sports, said it was a straightforward attack on hunting and shooting dressed up as a wildlife measure. It would give protection to pests and do damage to other wildlife and the countryside.

The backers of the bill include Labour MPs Tony Banks, Ron Davies, Terry Lewis and Majorie Mowlam, the Liberal Democrat Simon Hughes, and Tories Andrew Bowden, Sir Teddy Taylor and Dame Janet Fookes. The second reading debate will probably be in February.

Mr McNamara, a vice-president of the League against Cruel Sports, said that rather than proposing a limited animal welfare measure, such as stopping terriers being sent down fox-holes, which might have become law, he had chosen a broader approach. "It is important that Parliament should have an opportunity to take a principled vote on

the whole of the issue so that, whatever the outcome of the election, there would be a basis for a vigorous campaign to achieve the abolition of cruelty to wild animals."

Mr McNamara said that he was seeking to stop "horror, nastiness and real cruelty". He added: "I am not one of those who is a vegetarian or a vegan. Nor do I have an exaggerated opinion of the value of animals. But I do believe animals are deserving of respect. They are there for use by man or woman not abuse by man or woman."

John Bryant, the wildlife officer of the league, said that the Gallup survey demonstrated an unprecedented surge of public support for a ban on fox-hunting. Of all voters, 80 per cent disapproved of it and 79 per cent wanted it outlawed. Of Conservative voters, 69 per cent wanted a ban.

Mr Bowden attacked the hypocrisy of the fox-hunting lobby for saying in the same breath that they were keeping pests under control while protesting that they killed few foxes.

SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY.

GLENMORANGIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. Mashman.

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. 'Who was that?' asked a visitor. 'Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash.'

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: 'Time and the mash wait for no man.'



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Oxford gets tabloid taste of lower life

A new university newspaper has not amused the local police, reports Matthew d'Ancona

OXFORD students' answer to *The Sport*, a newspaper called *Rumpus*, was launched yesterday, immediately causing something of a stir amid the dreaming spires.

Affairs of state and student politics, the staple concerns of Oxford's journalists, earn few column inches. The first issue, available in newsagents and college lodges for 30p, leads on salacious graffiti in the Bodleian Library, and includes a topless girl called Monica, a "page seven fella", a personal contact page and instructions on how to steal a car. Eight thousand issues were printed, and a bi-monthly format is planned.

Rumpus's sex and scandal formula was devised by three history students, Chris Coleridge, descendant of Samuel Taylor, and Robert Norton of Exeter College, and Nat Rothschild of Wadham. "No-one had gone off the beaten

track before," said Mr Rothschild, son of Lord Rothschild, the millionaire banker. "We wanted to disprove the theory that you can't sell an Oxford newspaper."

However enterprising *Rumpus* may be, Thames Valley police are not amused. A spokesman said: "It's irresponsible, unfunny, and pointless, especially at a time when police are working very hard to stamp out thefts of cars."

The first issue, curiously dismissed by the university's press office as "rather childish", has also raised hackles at the student union. "It's a thoroughly scurrilous publication," said women's officer, Sarah Pesman. "The way sex is portrayed demeans both men and women."

"I don't think the paper's sexist," said Mr Rothschild. "We're not trying to provoke people, we're just trying to make it enjoyable."

The paper's ambition is to break the sober grip of established journals *Cherwell* and *Isis* upon the hearts and minds of Oxford students. "We decided to produce it in response to other student newspapers which are incredibly boring," said Mr Rothschild.

Incredibly boring or not, the journalists of *Cherwell*, the university weekly paper, seemed unshaken by this upstart attempt to storm the citadel. "It's fun, really," said arts editor Jeremy Etinghausen. "We don't mind them having a joke at our expense. It's schoolboy humour. I'm sure they're not really sexist."

Such fraternal remarks may give the editors of *Rumpus* courage to face the wrath of the proctors, who will step in if sufficient complaints are received about the paper's lavatorial humour. They should also take heart and remember the pantheon of Oxford journalists who have gone on to greatness: Alan Coren, John Bejeman, Graham Greene and David Dimbleby, to name but a few.



Coleridge: a far cry from Samuel Taylor



Up for a stretch: Diana Tilden-Davis, aged 22, the first Miss South Africa for more than a decade to compete for the Miss World title, recruits Metropolitan Police constables Paul Jackson, left, and Neil Maltby for a souvenir picture in London yesterday

Computer turns shrink with Woody Allen wit

Charles Bremner meets the winner of a competition in which machines were made to think like humans

busy doing what I like ... You are sick, sick, sick ... Am I right, or what?"

I threaten to erase him from the hard disk. A palpable sneer is audible in his riposte. "I hold it to be the inalienable right of anybody to go to hell in his own way."

I switch him off but there is a parting shot: "Please be sure to pay the receptionist on your way out."

It is hard to avoid the impression that you are talking to a New York psychiatrist when you switch on the programme, which is called PC Therapist. Earlier this month it won the first "Turing Test", a tournament held by the Boston computer museum in which judges matched wits with a group of humans and computers to see if they could tell the difference. The competition, which attracted intense interest in the arcane field of artificial intelligence, drew on an idea proposed in 1950 by Alan Turing, the British mathematician. According to Turing, the old

conundrum about whether a computer could ever be made to think would be answered when a human could not tell if he was talking to a human or a machine.

An international audience watched as ten non-specialists matched wits via keyboard and screen with the competing computers and humans about such matters as romance, wine and fashion.

Given the complexity of the field of artificial intelligence, one might have imagined the winning program

was devised in some enormous mainframe developed with billions of dollars in the defence department or Silicon valley. It was in fact the brainchild of Joe Weintraub, a modest New York computer consultant who spends most of his time in his third-floor study, in the drab district of Queens.

It took five years to "train" the Therapist, a program whose psychiatric theme sprang from Mr Weintraub's psychology degree and his interest in the mind. The result is an entity that dispenses an electronic version of the fare that New York "shrinks" dish up to their patients for \$100 (£55) an hour. It is quick with *les bons mots* and it has that maddening way of turning everything around, replying to questions with questions and asking how that makes you feel.

"It does have a lot of that Jewish idiom built into it," says Mr Weintraub. "You could call it the Woody Allen of therapists."

Therapist comes with a disclaimer not to take it as professional advice. "But," notes Mr Weintraub, "you can feel better talking to it. He is always up in mood and he'll raise yours."

In computer terms, the human mind is believed to store about ten megabytes of information, says Mr Weintraub. "So suppose you talk to him till his brain holds ten megabytes; you're going to have a little companion that you built with your talking."

Talking to the Therapist for a while does reveal how far it is from simulating even the most average "shrink". But just when you are about to dismiss it, it comes up with what sounds like wit. "Let's talk about your sex life," it suggested to a woman colleague.

"Actually, I'm in love with my neighbour," she typed back.

"Well," came the reply. "You know what they say: 'Love is always just around the corner.'"



Pilger's Cambodia film wins an Emmy

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

JOHN Pilger's television documentary on Cambodia, which cost him substantial libel damages earlier this year, has won an international Emmy award.

The award was one of five won by British entrants for the international section of television's Oscars, presented on Monday evening in New York.

Mr Pilger and Central Television had to pay what is understood to be £100,000 each to Anthony de Noorman and Christopher Mackenzie-Geldt for false implications in *Cambodia: The Betrayal* that they had helped the Khmer Rouge to lay mines.

The film also won the Bafta Richard Dimbleby award in March for factual television reporting, after being attacked by the United Nations Border Relief Operation for being factually inaccurate. David Dimbleby said at the time that the documentary went against the spirit of his father's work for painstaking reporting.

Of the other British winners in the international section, two Emmys were won by Thames Television, which last month lost its franchise as London's commercial station, for Rowan Atkinson's comedy, *The Curse of Mr Bean*, which was independently produced and came first in the popular arts category and for a children's programme, *The Foot of the World and the Flying Ship*.

Channel 4 won an arts documentary Emmy for *Damned in the USA*, its film about the backlash against homosexual art. Tyne Tees Television's dramatisation of *The Black Velvet Gown*, the Catherine Cookson novel, won the fifth award, for drama. It was directed by Norman Stone and produced by Ray Marshall.

Yorkshire Television's *The World of Eddie Weary* was shortlisted for the drama award. All the Emmy winners were British productions except *Le Dantoir*, which was Canadian.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1991

Kenya halts enquiry into Ouko murder

Moi orders arrest of sacked minister

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi, under growing domestic and international pressure, yesterday purged his government of officials implicated in the murder of the former Kenyan foreign minister, Robert Ouko. Nicholas Biwott, recently sacked as industry minister, was arrested as the president dissolved the Ouko enquiry. The three judges heading the enquiry had adjourned proceedings indefinitely, saying they could not carry on as they feared their lives were in danger.

According to government

sources, Mr Biwott was being questioned with several other detained officials. Mr Biwott, and Ezekiah Oyugi, President Moi's former security chief, also arrested, were named in the murder enquiry as "principal suspects". Police also seized George Oraro, a lawyer acting for Ouko at the enquiry. They said he was suspected of involvement in the murder. John Troon, a retired Scotland Yard detective brought in to investigate the killing, said Mr Biwott, known as the "Godfather" in Kenya and

probably the country's richest citizen after nine years as energy secretary before taking up the industry portfolio, had a good motive for killing Ouko. The popular foreign minister was preparing a report for the president on high-level corruption. News of the arrests of Mr Biwott and Mr Oyugi, who was recently removed from the president's office to be head of General Motors (Kenya), was greeted with disbelief and joy in Nairobi. A special edition of *The Nation* daily newspaper sold out within minutes.

Before news of the arrests, a local businessman had said: "They will never touch Biwott: he is the Godfather. He knows too much," hinting at the widely circulated rumour that Mr Moi's personal finances are linked to those of Mr Biwott, his long-time confidant. But a senior administration official said: "Such views are absurd. How could the president move against someone who would hurt him if they really were up to something? Surely he would have found another way to get rid of Biwott? The president has shown he wants to clean things up and has moved fast."

This view was echoed by several Western diplomats in Kenya. "The arrests and Moi's clear intention to get to the bottom of the corruption allegations and Ouko's murder is very good news," one said. "To be cynical at this point means that the poor man can't win whatever he does."

The Ouko enquiry judges said their rooms had been ransacked by members of the Kenyan Special Branch, who had also bugged their private offices. At least one of them had received death threats. In a statement, President Moi said that he had ordered his chief of police to round up the suspects named by Mr Troon, and that the commission of enquiry had run its course. But the Rev Timothy Njoroge, a leader of the pro-democracy movement, expressed dismay that the enquiry was being cut short and those suspected put, in his opinion, into the hands of the same police who tried to cover up the murder.

Leading article, page 19

Khmer Rouge asks for another chance

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge defence minister praised the warm welcome he claimed that he had received since returning to Phnom Penh last week, saying Cambodians "call me uncle". Son Sen also said that the Khmer Rouge's objective in the United Nations-supervised elections, to be held in 1993, was not to win many seats in the national assembly. "Our objective is only national reconciliation and solidarity," he said.

Mr Son Sen did not deny the past atrocities that had been committed by the Khmer Rouge, but said that was now history. More than hundreds of thousands of Cambodians perished during their rule in 1975-9. In the capital yesterday, students held a demonstration, with several hundred teenagers carrying banners saying "Khmer Rouge - get out of the country", and "Down with the Khmer Rouge". Khieu Samphan, the nominal Khmer Rouge leader, is due to return here today. Asked about his impressions of Phnom Penh, which the Khmer Rouge forcibly evacuated in 1975, Mr Son Sen said: "I am very happy to be here because we are so warmly welcomed by our compatriots. They call me uncle." But most Cambodians, except for the sponsored demonstrators, have mostly ignored the presence of the Khmer Rouge in the city.

Regarding the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge, Mr Son Sen said: "We have no need to speak about the past... it is history for us. We have to think about the present and the future." He added: "Judge us by the way we implement the peace agreements."

Asked about the 1978 murder of Malcolm Caldwell, a Scottish Khmer Rouge sympathiser and academic, in a Khmer Rouge government guest house, Mr Son Sen again said: "This is the past." On the present role of Pol Pot, the acknowledged head of the Khmer Rouge, he said: "We do not like to speak of him because the past is past. He has ceased all activities." But he refused to try to refute that Pol Pot was still the overall Khmer Rouge leader.



Son Sen: says people call him uncle



Farewell to arms: a Filipina hugging her American boyfriend, an airman at Clark air base, before the last US troops left the base for Guam yesterday

US leaves Philippines base

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

THE American flag was lowered for the last time at Clark air base yesterday as the Philippines took control of the largest overseas air base of the United States.

But before the ceremony was held, the base was looted and Philippines military officials said it would not be used because there was no money to operate it. Houses were stripped of everything that could be carried away including wiring, lights and sinks. Major-General Loven Abad, commander of the Philippines air force, said that seven soldiers had been arrested but he denied reports of organised theft by air force

officials in charge of security. A television report quoted Filipinos at Clark saying that eight officers were suspended for suspected looting.

"Of course security is not perfect," General Abad said. "It is a very big base; there is bound to be some petty theft. But there is no such thing as organised looting."

General Abad said that the air force had no plans to operate the base and the buildings would be closed. "The US needed \$97 million (\$54 million) a year to operate Clark, we don't have that kind of money," Renato de Villa, the defence

secretary, said that the Philippines armed forces, which were dependent on American military aid, would have to rethink its defence strategies now.

The closure of Clark had left 50,000 unemployed, said Antonio Abad Santos, the mayor of Angeles city which housed the base. The city has lost much of its glitter as most of its 150 bars have closed and the shops are empty.

Meanwhile, in Manila, security forces raided a rebel hideout and recovered 21 anti-tank weapons and several guns. The arms had been stolen from the police armoury.

Japanese accept ban on driftnets

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN, bowing to pressure from foreign governments and environmental groups, has fallen into line with America on a proposed United Nations resolution calling for a global moratorium on all large-scale driftnet fishing by the end of next year.

Existing large-scale fishing by driftnet on the high seas will be reduced by half by the end of next June through a reduction in the number of vessels involved, the length of nets and the area of operation. The full moratorium will come into effect at the end of next year.

Since 1978, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea have been sending fishing fleets all over the world equipped with driftnets, which environmental campaigners have dubbed "walls of death". The fine nets hang in the water like giant curtains, and entangle every creature too big to pass through the nylon mesh.

More than 60,000 Japanese are employed in commercial driftnet fishing, travelling to the Bering Sea and the North Pacific for salmon and squid and to the South Pacific for tuna. The total annual income from drift net operations of the three nations is about US\$50 million (£27.9 million). Conservative estimates put the annual death toll of dolphins, porpoises and whales from driftnets in tens of thousands.

According to the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, the UN resolution will not solve the problem because of a loophole which says the moratorium "can be lifted should effective conservation and management measures be taken". The agency claims Japan is already exploiting the loophole, saying that it will stop driftnet operations in the Pacific only "temporarily" and that the ban would not apply in the North Pacific as measures to preserve the marine environment are already being taken there.

Japanese fishing firms expressed confidence yesterday that they will be able to catch sufficient squid and salmon by using conventional methods. But most of Japan's tuna, the national favourite for sushi and sashimi, is already imported or caught far away. This could exert pressure again to buy tuna from as far away as Africa, and airlift it.

Riot police criticised for use of force

Johannesburg: A judicial inquiry into the deaths of 12 African National Congress supporters and a policeman in a riot in a black township last March has found that the police acted with undue force (Gavin Bell writes).

About 200 residents of Daveyton, east of Johannesburg, had gathered to protest themselves after being told of an impending attack by supporters of the rival Inkatha Freedom party. The inquiry heard that police fired more than 250 rounds of ammunition into the crowd after a policeman had been attacked and killed. The judge concluded that they had exceeded the bounds of self-defence. The findings have been referred to the attorney-general for possible prosecution.

Bush slump

Washington: Growing disquiet over the economy has reduced President Bush's public approval rating to its lowest level, prompting White House image-makers to limit his appearances before the national press in the run-up to a re-election campaign.

Clock reverses

Chicago: The symbolic doomsday clock, maintained by the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, has been reset this week to 17 minutes before midnight. It is now further from the hour that represents nuclear holocaust than at any time in its 46 years. (Reuters)

Counting down

Lagos: Nigeria will come to a virtual standstill today and tomorrow for the first national census in nearly two decades. Frontiers will be closed and all people, except those in essential services and the oil industry, will be confined to their homes. (Reuters)

Briton killed

Maputo: An unnamed British pilot of a civilian DC3 Dakota plane carrying aid to Mozambican war victims was killed when it crashed in the Zambezi valley. Two injured, Portuguese-speaking passengers were being treated in Johannesburg. (Reuters)

Water worry

Geneva: Iraq is managing to provide a minimal 1,500 calories of food a day for its 18 million population, says Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations executive delegate for humanitarian affairs. But water supplies are insufficient or polluted.

Agent arrested

Wellington: Gerald Andries, a French agent, has been arrested in Switzerland on a long-standing Interpol warrant, and may be extradited to New Zealand on charges relating to the bombing in 1985 of the Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior.

Gearing up

Perth, Western Australia: The 1904 Darracq car which featured in *Genevieve* is firing on both cylinders here after two years of renovation and being prepared for a 300-mile rematch against the Dutch Spyker car it raced in the 1953 British film. (AFP)

Unshackled magazine gives India's invisible gays a voice

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

India has its first gay magazine, called the *Bombay Dost* (friend). Its arrival represents an unprecedented official tolerance for homosexuals in a country that bans sexual acts deemed to be "against the order of nature". A 19th century definition that embraces homosexuality.

Dost has been officially registered as a newspaper after operating underground for a year. An early headline announced: "Out of the closet!" A gay network is now rapidly establishing

itself, in large measure because *Dost's* legal status allows it to be distributed by post. A few blocks from the Gateway of India in Bombay, a windowless room at the back of a restaurant serves as the city's first gay bar. It is the second in India; the other is in Calcutta. Bombay gays are still wary of the police, who keep a watchful eye on the bar when crowds gather on Saturday nights.

Inside, customers talk of their relief that this sexually conservative country is finally

acknowledging the existence of homosexuals. They are mostly middle class, including lawyers, architects and medical students. Most attempt to keep their homosexuality secret from families and work colleagues.

Ashok Row Kavi, aged 44, formerly a senior newspaper journalist who now works for *Dost* as its only paid employee, said governments had always insisted that there were no gays in India. "We are an invisible

minority. South Indian culture has always been more tolerant of homosexuality than the north, which has been influenced by Judaic and Christian cultures. The atmosphere there can be hostile."

Homosexuals have rarely been prosecuted in India, although section 377 of the Indian penal code provides for life imprisonment, regardless of whether the partners are consenting adults. The key wording of the section dates from 1833. The Supreme Court in

1983 upheld the conviction of a man who had intercourse with a boy, but reduced the sentence from three years' rigorous imprisonment to six months because the boy had given his consent.

Mr Kavi said the "coming out" of gays had led to increased hostility towards them. Bombay was seeing the first cases of gay bashing, although the atmosphere in the south was still not as aggressive as in the north. "India has a long tra-

dition of homosexuality, even though gays have never established a community identity," he said. "There has never been any objection in Hinduism to homosexuality. Christians are the most difficult to counsel because they are burdened with guilt. Hindus don't have the same hangup. There is a homosexual Hindu god, Kumara, born out of the union between Shiva and Vishnu, both males. There is a shrine to him in Kerala, which no fertile woman can enter."

The reluctant official acknowledgement of homosexuality in India is partly due to fears of the impact of Aids, which is being spread by prostitutes, drug addicts and professional blood donors as well as homosexuals. According to surveys in Bombay, 60 per cent of prostitutes in the Falkland Road red-light area are HIV positive. Social workers say condoms are never used.

The World Health Organisation estimates that a million people in India are HIV positive.

A *Gordon's & Tonic* WITH A SLICE OF LEMON AT THE END OF THE DAY

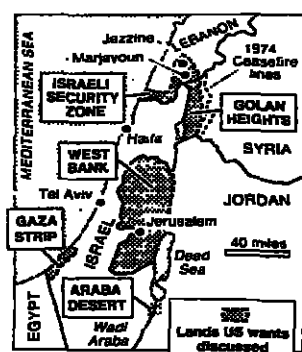
US presses Israelis to relinquish land

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

FOR the first time since America embarked on its peace mission in the Middle East ten months ago, Washington is prodding Israel to make territorial concessions in return for peace with its Arab negotiating partners.

Although the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir has consistently refused to relinquish any territory, the Bush administration has proposed in a detailed letter several compromises which envisage exactly that, in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. The proposals were set out in a four-and-a-half page document that included the invitation to Israel to resume bilateral talks next week in Washington with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

The invitation, which is



likely to be debated today at the meeting of the Israeli inner cabinet, is bound to cause friction within the coalition government, which has steadfastly refused any territorial compromise and which is still arguing with Washington over procedural

questions. Although Israel is likely to agree to send its delegation to Washington it will do so reluctantly, not least because it is suspicious of the Bush administration's attempts to speed up the process, possibly in time to deliver a foreign policy victory for President Bush during his re-election campaign.

"We are not reluctant to discuss substantive issues, but our impression is that the Americans want a quick solution," said one Israeli official. "We think that this will be a lengthy process."

As an example of American impatience, Israelis point to the manner in which Washington intervened to impose a venue and date for the next round of talks, dismissing Israeli efforts to have the meeting held in the Middle East. According to reports in Israel and America, the most controversial suggestion is over the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed by Israel a decade ago. Although the State Department apparently takes no position on the disputed land, it does suggest indirectly that both parties prepare options for a land-for-peace deal.

The letter is even more specific on the question of Lebanon, where Israel controls a so-called security zone which stretches a few miles north of the Lebanese border and along a finger of land to the town of Jezzine. Apparently Washington has suggested that, as a first step, Israel withdraw its forces and those of its Lebanese surrogates, the South Lebanon Army, from Jezzine and confine them to the border strip as a first step towards a complete withdrawal.

As far as the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation is concerned, the United States suggests that peace with Amman could be easily concluded with minor adjustments to the disputed border areas south of the Dead Sea. America has asked Israel and the Palestinian delegation to put forward plans for a Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For its part, Syria signalled yesterday that it would attend the Washington talks next week, but only if substantive issues, such as occupied Arab land, were discussed.

Another technical hitch appeared in the faltering progress of the peace talks yesterday when the Palestine Liberation Organisation asked America to grant visas to seven members of the organisation, to enable them to go to the second round talks in Washington. The State Department says that it will not lift the ban on visas for the PLO but may make an exception for some of the organisation's officials.

Man in the news

Mr Israel prepares for PR fightback

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BENJAMIN Netanyahu occupies a hot coffee-shop table just like the former special forces paratrooper that he is, his eyes constantly on the move for potential threats as though Park Lane were the Jordan river. It is not hard to see why he is strongly tipped to lead the Israeli delegation to the next stage of the Middle East peace talks, the Israeli attitude to which will be announced today.

The focus on Israel in the prolonged stand-off over the venue is "completely misplaced", he says, hinting that Israel, once again, will propose a Middle East location. Not, he hastens to add, because Israel is trying to delay the process, but because Israel believes in the principle that talks in Cyprus, or one of the contending states, would overcome the Arabs' "very peculiar" refusal to achieve the sort of basic rapprochement that is signified by having the talks close to each others' centres.

"Our purpose is to get beyond the biggest obstacle — the Arabs' opposition to Israel's very legitimacy." Once the obstacle of legitimacy can be overcome "peace can follow very, very quickly". "Suppose the Soviet Union had said, 'We refuse to set foot on the soil of the United States during our talks', what would be wrong? What would be wrong would be the refusal of the idea of co-existence," he declared.

The man who is "Mr Israel" to millions of television viewers around the world through his performances during the Gulf War and,



Netanyahu: West must take a neutral stance

Syria or the others believe that the US and the West will deliver Israel, or pieces of it, they will sit back and do nothing. If, on the other hand, they realise that the West truly expects them to enter the room and negotiate, then I think we can have the basis of a compromise. The position of the West is not immaterial to the success of these negotiations."



Balanced diet: a pensioner manoeuvres with a tray of soup and salads at a soup kitchen for senior citizens in Lyubertsy, near Moscow. Queues and high prices have forced the elderly to scavenge from dumps

EC to give court new teeth

BY MICHAEL BUNYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMID the controversy over British opposition to most of the plans for European political union, one British proposal, federalism in its implication and far-reaching in its intention, has been largely overlooked.

Britain has campaigned to give the European Court of Justice the power to fine member states which fail to translate into law the directives they sign. That proposal is part of the draft treaty on political union.

Article 171 authorises the European Commission to give a formal warning to states that fail to enact community legislation. If a state still does nothing within the stated time limit, Brussels can take the case to the Luxembourg court, specifying what it regards as an appropriate fine. If the court finds the state in default, it can order Brussels to collect the money as an attachment to the state's monthly EC dues.

The provision, Britain believes, will give the court teeth to enforce community law. Dozens of directives agreed by EC governments remain unenforced.

Giving the court its first real power to order sanctions against member states has important federal implications. The court will assume more the character of a European supreme court.

● Brussels: Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, said yesterday the word "federal" had poisoned discussions on political union. It should be removed from the proposed union treaty, he said. (Reuters)

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Leading article, page 19

Gorbachev moves to limit damage from treaty snub

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev embarked yesterday on an emergency damage-limitation exercise following his latest failure to check the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

But details emerging from Monday's stormy state council meeting revealed a continuing gulf of understanding between Mr Gorbachev and the Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, on the terms of a new union and suggested that the projected political treaty could not be signed before mid-December, if at all.

Leaders of seven of the remaining 12 Soviet republics, including Russia, had been expected to initial the long-awaited treaty at Monday's meeting. Instead, however,

they issued only general approval and said that it should first be dispatched to the republic parliaments. At the end of the meeting, Mr Gorbachev had come out, alone and clearly unhappy, to present the decision.

Yesterday, one of Mr Gorbachev's chief aides, Georgi Shakhnazarov, appeared at a press conference to tell reporters, in the nicest possible way, that they had got it all wrong. There were, he said, "elements of over-dramatisation" in reports that the new union treaty had suffered a serious setback. He emphasised the extent of unity — "no one was totally against the treaty" — and expressed confidence that, despite everything, it would be formally signed "by

the end of the year". The very presence of the embolism Mr Shakhnazarov at a press conference, however, was evidence of serious concern in the president's office about the effect of Monday's failure on domestic and foreign opinion. Nor could he conceal the depth of the outstanding differences.

The chief culprit, it emerged, was none other than Mr Yeltsin. When, in Mr Shakhnazarov's version, Mr Gorbachev announced the first item on Monday's agenda, the initialing of the union treaty, Mr Yeltsin said that he would be only too happy to initial it — so long as his latest amendments were made. The Russian president's brinkmanship, reminiscent of that so often employed in the past by Mr Gorbachev, apparently encountered no objection from the other six republic representatives present, namely Belorussia and the five Central Asian republics, and a lengthy discussion followed.

A chief point of contention was, again, whether the new Union should be a federation or a confederation. Unlike Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin wants a confederation, or collection of separate states with budgets and constitutions.

Senate sanctions funds to spike Soviet arsenal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE American Senate has overwhelmingly approved pioneering legislation that would permit up to \$500 million (£279 million) of the Pentagon budget to be spent on dismantling the vast Soviet nuclear arsenal.

The 86-8 vote followed a series of dire warnings of impending chaos in the Soviet Union, and increasing alarm in Washington at the possibility of dangerous Third World regimes obtaining Soviet nuclear weapons and expertise in the world's black-market arms bazaar. Libya and Iraq have already sought to recruit Soviet nuclear weapons scientists, but so far without success. The Washington Post said yesterday.

In addition, the Senate voted 87-7 to permit President

Bush to spend up to \$200 million of Pentagon funds to fly emergency food supplies to the Soviet Union this winter. It approved most favoured nation trading status for the Soviet Union, meaning its exports will attract the lowest possible American tariffs. It also ratified by 90 votes to 4 the long-delayed Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. There is no precedent for spending Pentagon funds on dismantling its former enemy, but the legislation was expected to win House approval either late yesterday or today.

● Brussels: The European Community signed a credit guarantee for the Soviet Union worth \$635 million. The loan will allow Moscow to buy food in the EC and Eastern Europe. (Reuters)

Republics seek to avert war

Moscow: Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders will attend talks in Moscow today to try to pull back their southern Soviet republics from war, a spokesman for President Gorbachev said yesterday.

They will discuss "the very dangerous, alarming situation and work out decisions that would prevent further escalation", Andrei Grachov said. The Russian Information Agency quoted President Mitalibov of Azerbaijan as saying in Baku: "The conflict with Armenia must not be settled from a position of strength, but through peaceful negotiations."

While Mr Mitalibov was speaking, thousands demonstrated, demanding action against Armenia. (Reuters)

Fatal crash

Moscow: Thirty-seven people died in a plane crash in the Soviet autonomous republic of Tatarstan, Tass said. The aircraft, an Antonov-24, crashed while landing at Bugulma airport after a flight from the oil-producing city of Nizhnevartovsk in western Siberia. (Reuters)

Jailing urged

Graisse: Prosecutors in this southern French town recommended that David Morris, from Romsey, Hampshire, on trial for allegedly killing a man, aged 22, in a boating accident in which five other people were injured, be jailed for three years. (AFP)

Fatter and free

Delhi: Liviu Radu, the Romanian diplomat kidnapped in Punjab seven weeks ago, took a train and taxi home after his release. He said it had been an "interesting and novel experience". His wife Caterina said: "He seems to have put on weight." (Reuters)

Cossiga call

Rome: President Cossiga of Italy, facing an impeachment challenge from the Democratic Party of the Left, has demanded an investigation into charges that he plotted to help set up a secret Nao group, Gladio, during the Cold War. (Reuters)

Closed chapter

Moscow: The Lenin state public library, the Soviet Union's most important library, has closed, because it cannot afford to make repairs ordered by health inspectors, officials said. Visitors are told the lighting is so bad that they should bring light bulbs. (AP)

Bonn shuffle

Bonn: Rudolf Seiters, replaced in the German chancellery by Friedrich Bohl, has become the new interior minister, taking over from Wolfgang Schäuble, who was chosen this week as leader of the Christian Democrats in the Bundestag.

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27th November 1991

Dissent cripples Croatia

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN ZAGREB

CROATIA'S fragile democracy is in danger of collapsing this week as the government struggles to control a swell in dissent at home and ward off the spectre of civil war within its own borders as the extreme-right nationalist Party of Rights edges closer to all-out revolt.

The centre-right administration of President Franjo Tudjman has failed to impress over the past few months. Now it looks close to self-immolation, strangling its own credibility in a web of accusations, repressive measures and contradictions.

Dr Tudjman's problems worsened with the fall of Vukovar. The eastern Croatian town had been dubbed "our Stalingrad" throughout its three-month siege. Its loss may well have turned it into Dr Tudjman's Waterloo.

Unable to staunch criticism from the extreme right that he provided inadequate defence for Vukovar, or even allowed its defeat as a preliminary step to eventual — but hotly denied — exchange of territory with Serbia, Dr Tudjman ordered the



Tudjman: few will mourn his passing

arrest last weekend of the opposition leader Dobroslav Paraga and his deputy Milan Vukovic, on charges of "attempted armed rebellion". Mr Vukovic, since released, has begun a hunger strike.

The clampdown on the opposition is a bungled move, since its paramilitary wing has gained popularity by virtue of its battlefield exploits. At the frontlines, there is strong resentment of the government sitting in barely-seathed Zagreb. The decision to force a conflict

with the Party of Rights is only likely to increase its appeal.

Since the arrests there have been gunfights around the party's headquarters and Mr Vukovic has threatened to pull back fighters from the front if Mr Paraga is not freed within the next few days. The last thing Croatia needs is a civil war within its own borders.

In his attempt to contain the opposition, Dr Tudjman has abused legislative powers, which even the communists would have blushed at from employing. Among those arrested was the Vukovar commander, Milan Dedakovic. He has been accused of being a Serbian spy.

The accusations and arrests have discredited the government in the eyes of the people and weakened its democratic credentials. Few in Croatia would now mourn Dr Tudjman's political passing — were it not for fears of who might emerge in his place.

Peacekeeping force, page 1

Balkan war, page 18
Letters, page 19

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Mass migration and unemployment furnish classic conditions for far-right resurgence across continent

Europe stokes the embers of fascism

A SPECTRE is haunting Europe — the spectre of fascism. The corpse, which many thought had had a stake driven through its heart in 1945, is rising from graves from Belgium to Austria, Sweden to Italy. Youths are parading swastikas in the streets, chanting anti-semitic slogans and setting fire to hostels sheltering immigrants and asylum-seekers.

The strength of extremist right-wing parties has shown itself in elections across Europe, east and west. Some operate just within the bounds of political respectability, but are pushing out the bounds of intolerance and xenophobia: where Jean-Marie Le Pen goes today, other political parties in France are likely to follow tomorrow. In Austria, Jörg Haider's Freedom party trebled its vote in local elections in Vienna, and has now overtaken the conservative People's Party as the main opposition.

Other parties make little secret of their extremist leanings and their links with the skinheads and street fighters who support them. The Vlaams Blok in Belgium campaigned on proposals to send all immigrants home, and draws its support from the depressed quarters of Antwerp and Brussels. The francophone liberal party in Belgium has fielded a candidate in Schaerbeek, a poor quarter of Brussels, who talks of chartering jets to fly North Africans home. During the campaign, pamphlets showing African picnicians and posters depicting Africans and Arabs as welfare scroungers appeared.

Even affluent Sweden, with a long tradition of tolerance, is not immune. This weekend three nationalist right-wing groups will march through central Stockholm to honour the memory of Karl XII, the eighteenth-century warrior king who has become a cult hero to neo-Nazis. The march, which could end in violent confrontation with anti-racists, comes after a spate of attacks on immigrants and foreigners. An Ethiopian father and his two children narrowly escaped death after their home was firebombed, while a sniper killed an Iranian immigrant in Stockholm.

Anti-immigrant violence is also rife in Italy. Last year saw a series of attacks, especially in Florence, and racist violence spread to Rome in May. At the weekend a political movement described by Italy's political establishment as "racist, populist, fascist, anti-constitutional, and anti-Italian" became the largest party

The strength of extreme right-wing parties is showing itself in elections across Europe, from west to east. Michael Binyon, writes

in the Brescia area of northern Italy.

In municipal elections involving 170,000 people, the Lega Nord, or Northern League, took 24.4 per cent of the vote with a platform that is an intoxicating cocktail of hostility towards southern Italians, third-world immigrants, the Rome government, and the established party system. The Lega trounced all the official parties, across the spectrum. The movement was born 13 years ago as the Lombard League, and then spread to the Veneto, Piedmont, and Liguria, which together became the Lega Nord. But the league has now spread south, and is poised to do well in national elections.

Spain has also seen a revival of fascism, and 10 days ago a crowd of 10,000 young black-uniformed fascists from Spain and other European countries, as well as older, former supporters of General Franco, gathered in front of the royal palace, where the dictator used to give speeches, to give fascist salutes.

In Western Europe the far right is strongest and causes most alarm in France and



Le Pen: pushing out bounds of intolerance

Germany. M. Le Pen, who is coming to Britain for a conference on the European Right next week, now claims 100,000 members for his party, the National Front. A recent opinion poll gave him 32 per cent of popular support. He already holds 10 seats in the European Parliament, and is likely to win seats in the National Assembly at the next elections.

The National Front, campaigning vigorously on an anti-immigrant platform, has also been accused of anti-semitism. It has dominated the national debate, and created an atmosphere in which Jacques Chirac, the former prime minister, spoke of "noisy, smelly immigrants driving French people crazy", and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, talked of an "invasion" of foreigners.

For obvious historical reasons alarm is greatest over the emergence of the right in Germany, particularly former East Germany. Dozens of hostels for asylum-seekers have been attacked, especially in big cities such as Bremen, Dresden and Berlin. Skinheads and football hooligans have kept alive the memory of Rudolf Hess. There has been a revival of violence against Turkish and other immigrants; foreigners have been killed by mob attacks; slogans have been daubed on the walls; and the chilling roar of "Sieg Heil" has again echoed across town squares.

There are no members of the far right in the Bundestag, but the Republicans, led by a former Waffen-SS officer, are represented in the European Parliament. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has voiced his government's deep anxiety.

Eastern Europe is also seeing the rapid growth of the far right. Jewish graves have been desecrated in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Extreme nationalism has also allied itself to violence and anti-semitism: in Romania this has been manifest in continued attacks on the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, whereas in Bulgaria it has again concentrated on the Turkish minority. In many republics of the former Soviet Union anti-semitism has become blatant, and Russian nationalists are appealing unashamedly to Slavophile, anti-Western feeling.

In Yugoslavia, where nationalism has led to full-scale civil war, the word "fascist" has become the favourite term of abuse of Serbs against Croats, who are now accused of perpetuating the atrocities committed by the pro-Nazi Ustasha. The Serbian political leadership, nominally communist, now makes little secret of its nationalist ideology and dreams of a greater Serbia.



Right is might: a skinhead giving the Nazi salute outside Spandau prison, Berlin. Much of Europe is experiencing an upsurge of fascism

Racists add Antwerp to list of poll successes

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN ANTWERP

JOZEF Sneyers, a thickest Antwerp cobbler with a few days' growth of beard, tries to explain why his polyglot city has just voted in astonishing numbers for Flemish nationalists who advocate mass deportation of immigrants and an independent republic of Flanders.

"We wanted to give them a shock," he said. "To tell the great parties who don't take any notice that we are sick and tired that they don't listen. They let them come."

"Then" are North African and Turkish immigrants, and Mr Sneyers voted for the Vlaams Blok which wants to send them home. Sunday's general election in Belgium turned the block from a racist splinter group into Antwerp's leading political party, with a quarter of the city's vote, and so it becomes a significant player in forming the next national coalition government.

Antwerp is an improbable backdrop for the latest success for the anti-immigrant parties riding a wave of xenophobia in Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland and Denmark. The city's seedy,

cosmopolitan air reflects its history as one of the trading crossroads of northern Europe. By the 16th century it had become one of the richest cities on the continent by exploiting its position at the mouth of the Scheldt river.

Today, Antwerp's half a million people include Europe's largest Jewish community alongside Italian and Spanish quarters and newer areas of Turkish and Moroccan settlement. Borgehout, a suburb with a Moroccan population close to 20 per cent, is known as Borge-rocco. Mr Sneyers buys his cigarettes from a Yugoslav newsagent whose shop looks out at the Venus Love Supermarket, which advertises rubber-wear in five languages.

Beside poster portraits of Wilfried Martens, the prime minister for the past decade, are pictures of orange boxing gloves put up by the Vlaams Blok. This year, Antwerp lost patience and went for the boxing gloves. The shock was every bit as devastating as Mr Sneyers had hoped. Antwerp's socialist mayor, Bob Cools, is reduced to splutter-

ings that Antwerp is not a "brown shirt" city. The mayor has a potential image problem: Antwerp becomes the European City of Culture in 1993. There is little sign that Antwerp is going back to the fascist successes of the 1930s. Resentment of immigrants is mixed with Flemish separatism, dissatisfaction with public services and Roman Catholic disquiet at legalised abortion. Hostility to the newest foreigners grew at a time of relative affluence: Belgium has a big public debt but Flanders's economy prospers. One of the Blok MPs for Antwerp, Filip Dewinter, says that he wants to see 100,000 illegal immigrants sent home first: repatriation of legal "non-Europeans" can wait.

Nancy Benest, a first-time Blok voter, was taken aback by what she and others unleashed. "I thought that they would climb up, but not that much," she said. No, she would not vote for them again. "It is not a racist city," said Derek Martens, a reporter. "People are just sick and tired of democracy which doesn't help them."

Sweden threatens to halt Baltic aid

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN TALLINN

BALTIC governments have reacted angrily to a warning by a Swedish minister that aid to their states could be cut off if they continued to rehabilitate Nazi war criminals.

Lennart Meri, the Estonian foreign minister, described the statement by Alf Svensson, the Swedish international development minister, as "regrettable". Audrius Azubalis, a Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman, referred to the threat by Stockholm as "an old tune".

However, Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, is reported to have distanced himself from his minister's remarks. Sweden is the biggest provider of aid to the Baltic states and their links to Scandinavian countries are essential for their economic future. However, the Swedish government is believed to be increasingly concerned by Baltic policies towards the Russian minorities in the region.

Mr Svensson's warning came after the recent rehabilitation of Lithuanian war criminals sentenced under Soviet rule, and the creation

in Estonia of a veteran's association, which includes former members of the SS and the German police battalion, responsible for the mass killings of Jews during the second world war. The calls for the creation of the association were made over Estonian state media.

Estonian officials have argued that the Estonians were conscripted into the units, or had only volunteered to fight in order to defend Estonia against Soviet invasion. They said that very few were involved in the murder of Jews, and that former soldiers in the Soviet army had also been invited to join the association. An Estonian official described the controversy as "a storm in a tea cup".

But Jewish-Estonian representatives have retorted that many of the men involved were volunteers, that Estonian SS units had as a whole taken part in the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto in 1943, and that unlike Latvia and Lithuania, Estonia has so far made no official acknowledgement of its role in the Holocaust.

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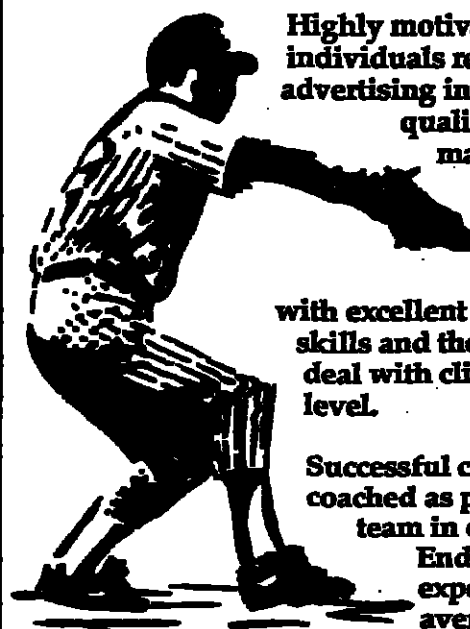
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Spycatcher's lessons for press and law

As Lord Bridge said in August 1987: "The maintenance of the ban, as more and more copies of *Spycatcher* circulate here, will seem more and more ridiculous. If the government is determined to fight to maintain the ban to the end, it will face inevitable condemnation and humiliation by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg."

It was, and now it does. Yesterday's resounding vindication by the Court in Strasbourg, by 24 votes to nil, of Lord Bridge's perfectly obvious forecast need surprise nobody but the government. It adds yet another defeat to its already dismal record, easily the worst in Europe, of impervious, near-xenophobic insularity to its obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights.

For people like Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington, who seems to have little time for the distilled wisdom of foreign jurisdictions and to believe in the Channel as a cordon sanitaire against their intrusion, this posture is entirely justified. For *The Sunday Times*, it is its second victory under Article 10 of the Convention, which guarantees freedom of expression, the previous one being the *Thaidomide* judgment 12 years ago.

The point about *Spycatcher* was whether Peter Wright's book, detailing the British Security Services' behaviour in the mid-1970s — "bugging and bugging their way round London", and plotting to destabilise the Wilson government, among other things — should be embargoed in Britain pending a full trial of the issue, while topping the bestseller lists in the United States.

No, said the High Court on July 22, 1987. Yes, said the Court of

Following yesterday's ruling in Strasbourg, Andrew Neil and Antony Whitaker consider the implications

Appeal two days later. Yes, said the House of Lords, by a 3-2 majority, on July 30. A depressing irony is that one of the majority, Lord Templeman, has since said he believes he was wrong. But for him, *The Sunday Times* might have been saved a trip to Strasbourg.

Stripped of its legal scaffolding, the commonsense answer to the problem is that once the cat is out of the bag, you cannot put it back in, and that a law which attempts the impossible makes a fool of itself.

This was vividly recognised by two of the more enlightened English judges: Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, who "felt like the little Dutch boy being asked to put a finger in the dyke when in fact the whole embankment has broken down upstream", and Lord Justice Bingham, who said that "the court will not seek to emulate the 15th-century pope who issued a papal bull against Halley's comet".

NOW comes the difficult part for Ian and Kevin Maxwell. As they begin to implement a speedy programme of disposals and repayments, the danger is that they may try to save too much and endanger their control of the real jewel in the package, *Mirror* Group Newspapers.

The worst problem for the brothers is the money which the banks have lent the amazing web of private family companies set up by Robert Maxwell to reduce tax, confuse his enemies and allow inter-company transactions.

This debt is put at some £88 million and, while there are substantial non-mortgaged assets which can be sold, they may be difficult to realise.

Of course, the Maxwell Communication Corporation is still loaded with the debt taken abroad to pay for the

What comfort does yesterday's judgment offer *The Sunday Times* and the British media? First, the court recognises the danger of prior restraints, against which it sets a high premium. These, though not forbidden under Article 10, "call for the most careful scrutiny on the part of the court. This is especially so as far as the press is concerned, for news is a perishable commodity and to delay its publication, even for a short period, may well deprive it of all its value and interest."

This places a clear obligation on the government to revise the principles on which the courts have acted hitherto, and to give much greater weight to the sensitivity and perishability of news than to the availability of remedies in damages, in deciding whether to forbid publication pending trial.

If this means taking British law closer to the position in the United States, where the First Amendment has made prior restraints almost an extinct species, it should be done without hesitation. It will require a major overhaul of British law not merely in the area of confidentiality, but also of contempt, where the available embargoes against reporting court proceedings and identifying defendants are far too liberal and thoughtlessly imposed.

Second, the Court gives refreshing endorsement to the principle that the majority of the House of Lords was seemingly blind. "Even if the Attorney-General had succeeded in obtaining permanent injunctions at trial, they would have borne on material the confidentiality of which had been lost in any event — and irrespective of whether any further disclosures were made by *The Sunday Times* —



Setting precedents: Peter Wright with *Spycatcher*, the book that became a cause célèbre

as a result of the publication in the United States... the interest in maintaining the confidentiality of that material had, for the purposes of the Convention, ceased to exist."

Third, the judgment must increase pressure on the government to introduce a bill of rights reflecting the standards set by the European Convention. Even though the Commission and the Court have held that there is no

actual obligation to incorporate the Convention into domestic law under Article 13 — requiring that those whose Convention rights are violated "shall have an effective remedy before a national authority" — such a measure, and the appointment of enlightened judges to administer it, would surely reduce the flood-tide of complaints that get Britain such a bad name in Strasbourg.

Finally, on a more self-interested note, *The Sunday Times* was awarded about half its costs of fighting to a successful finish in Strasbourg. Principles worth pursuing have to be paid for, and it may just convince the government that tunnel-vision megalomania is an uneconomic hobby.

Andrew Neil is Editor of *The Sunday Times*. Antony Whitaker Legal Manager of *The Times*.

MEDIA WATCH

Voicing concern

FAILURE to attract large advertisers has prompted *The Voice*, the weekly tabloid for British blacks, into the unusual response of placing advertising in trade magazines. Under a photograph of a glamorous professional black woman, a caption reads: "When we asked why the newspaper she reads was excluded from every major ad campaign of the past year we were told... 'Frankly, our clients are looking for shoppers, not looters'."

Viv Broughton, *The Voice's* marketing director, insists that the remark was made by one of the big media buyers but says it would be "unfair" to expose him. Mr Broughton says the £10,000 advert has prompted many agencies to ask for media packs. Tina Crouch of Abbott Mead Vickers says: "The onus is on *The Voice* to come up with a good reason advertisers should advertise. We have not yet seen a presentation."

Take the air

RADIO Cracker, a temporary service set up by the Christmas Cracker Trust to train young people in radio while appealing for funds for World charities, goes on air throughout the country from this Saturday until Christmas eve on low-powered frequencies from 91.8 to 102 FM.

4-sights

HUNDREDS of viewers have written to Channel 4 to praise its recent Monday night current affairs experiment, *4-Thought*. David Lloyd, the senior commissioning editor for news and current affairs, says viewers thought the four pilot programmes "refreshing" and "innovative". Enthusiasm was not so forthcoming from the industry. Simon Shaps, LWT's head of current affairs, says: "It is difficult to see in any of these shows the seeds of the way we think of current affairs... the pilots betrayed an obsession with formats instead of saying something different and interesting. Current affairs have changed very little in the past 30 years, but this is not a great leap forward."

Complaints

ONLY five complaints out of a total of 141 were upheld by the Press Complaints Commission during October. Four of the five concerned inaccuracies and none involved invasion of privacy. The low level of adjudications is similar to the first ten months of the year, when just 18 of 871 complaints were upheld.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Maxwells into the fray

Can Kevin and Ian make the empire strike back?

purchase of Macmillan, the American publisher, at \$2.6 billion and the *Official Airline Guide* at \$750 million.

In addition it now appears that some of the Maxwell companies need further short term loans of £5 million just to keep going.

This throws a fierce spotlight on the family's principal asset — the 51 per cent holding in MGN, now worth some £255 million. The brothers have said that everything is for sale, but MGN would be "the last to go".

With Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank holding 40 million MGN

shares as collateral and "wanting to get out", as Kevin Maxwell told *The Sunday Times*, family control of MGN remains at risk.

Unless the Maxwells can persuade Goldman Sachs to hold their hand or persuade friendly banks to take the shares from them, a predator such as the Australian media magnate, Kerry Packer, might buy them — and that could foreshadow a bid which might well be welcomed by some of the banks.

Take-over of the *Mirror* group by a Conservative-minded tycoon is surely unthinkable. All the other

tabloids are fervent supporters of the Tory party. Only the *Mirror* newspapers back Labour. It would be disastrous for democratic debate if they fell into Tory hands. The Labour party would find fresh reasons for interfering with press freedom. Even if pledges of editorial freedom were given by a predator, such promises could well flake away under pressure.

I hope, therefore, that Ian Maxwell, an able and likeable man, will remain publisher of the *Mirror* group.

Both editorial and management teams are exceptionally able, and the *Mirror* group

papers are, in general, highly profitable.

Advertising revenue will pick up before long: the general election should give them a new circulation boost. Profits could increase. But the brothers must continue to give over-riding priority to keeping control of the *Mirror* group: nothing else matters so much.

When their father died, so suddenly and so strangely, the *Mirror* front page paid tribute to him as "The man who saved the *Mirror*". It would be a poor tribute to his memory if Maxwell family control of the *Mirror* group was the first casualty of the debacle that followed his death.

CHARLES WINTOUR

Leading article, page 19



Ian Maxwell: still publisher



Kevin Maxwell: control at risk

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CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING

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THEATRE

Ripe fruit of a misspent youth

Benedict Nightingale on the colourful life, evocative work and great potential of the Irish playwright Billy Roche

Theatre critics, commonly regarded as the darkest of cynics, are actually the most resilient of optimists. Off we go into the dark in search of another Chekhov or Ibsen, only to find that the dramatist in whom we had invested our hopes has come up with yet another dour homily against the class system, or another sour, ruminate comedy about the perils of being middle-aged. And still we keep up the hunt, night after night, year after year. After all, the 1950s brought us Beckett, Osborne and Pinter; the 1960s Stoppard and Ayckbourn; and the 1970s Friel and Churchill. Surely the fog-end of the century will be similarly blessed.

Until now that has not happened. Doug Lucie, Timberlake Wertenbaker and others have their champions; but the good humour of many of us has been severely tested. Each Christmas it has proved harder to find a strong candidate for the slot marked "most promising playwright" in the annual theatre awards. But last week we yet again pressed our eager faces against the pane and, for once, saw light on the other side. Billy Roche's *Belfry* may have flickered rather slowly into life, but by the time we left the Bush there could be no doubting that its author was born to write for the stage.

The play is actually the last part of what Roche calls his "Wexford trilogy", after the Irish town where he was born in 1949 and still lives with his wife and three daughters. *A Handful of Stars* is set in a pool hall, *Poor Beast* in the rain in a betting shop, and *Belfry* in the sacristy of a church. The dowdy, downbeat settings, in each case evoked with documentary precision, clearly embody their author's memories of his childhood and unruly adolescence. His family was Catholic, lived on a council estate, and subsisted on the money that his father, an emigrant car-worker, sent home from Stevenage. Not until the old man took over a shabby little bar on the Wexford waterfront, and gave it what Billy wryly calls a "Student Prince atmosphere", were the Roches united and relatively comfortable.

From the age of 13, Billy washed glasses behind the bar. "I came to manhood with sailors, dockers, lorry-drivers, a fantastic crowd who had seen the world and had stories to tell," he says. "People would want to come in, because the door would be open and the sound of singing bursting out. If you did that in a pub now, you'd probably be thrown out. But we used to say, there was no point drinking if it didn't change you, if it didn't make you want to sing, cry, even fight. It was a rough-edged community," he adds, "but people looked after each other. If a fight did break out,

'I came to manhood with a fantastic crowd who had seen the world and who had stories to tell'
— Billy Roche

and only my mother was around, the other guys would take care of it."

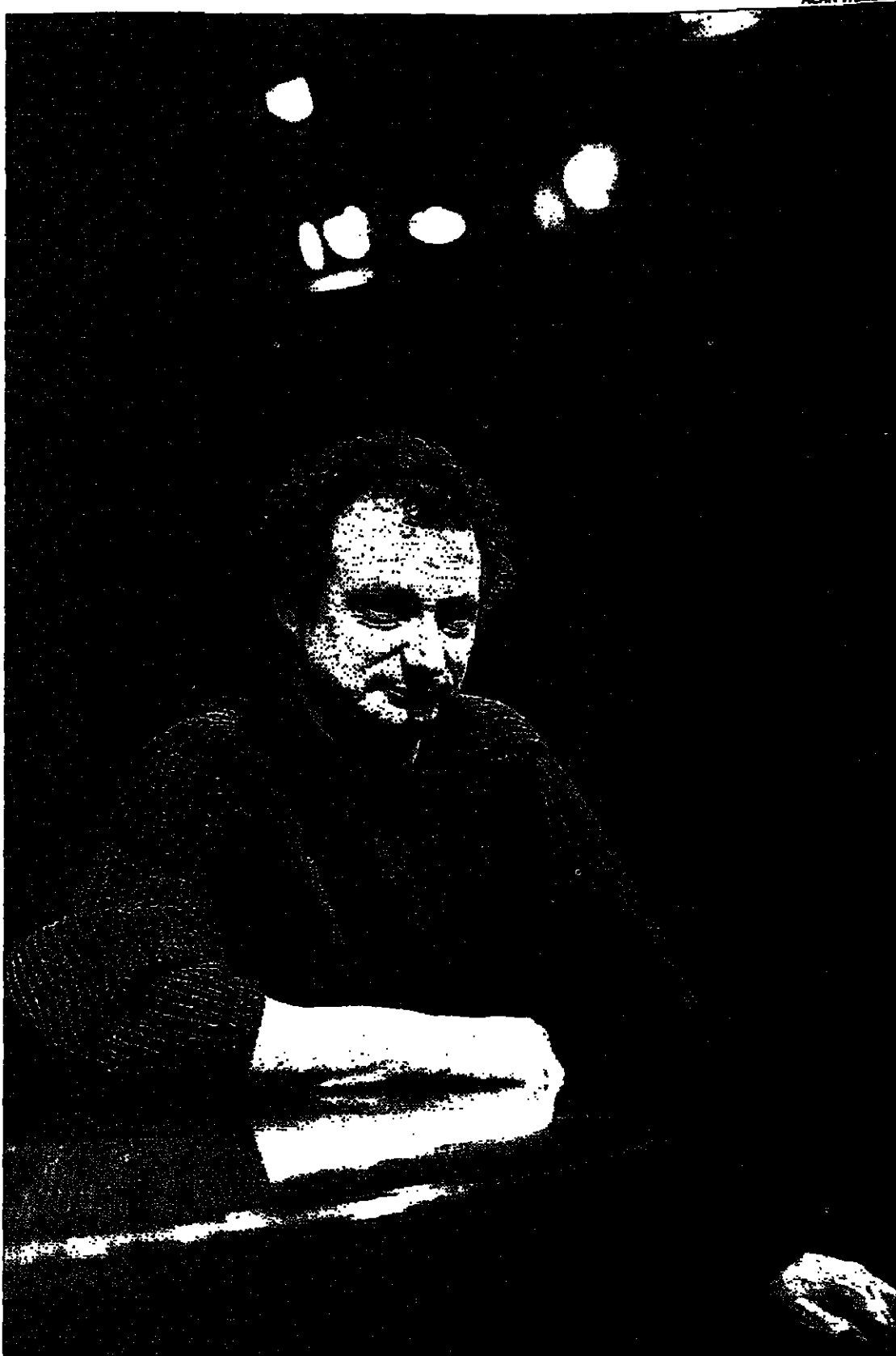
Community is one of the trilogy's principal subjects, but it is not treated in any glib or mawkish way. There is camaraderie still to be found in Roche's Wexford. As he says, most unusually for a contemporary dramatist, "people can be very good and kind if you give them half a chance". But it is a community that is changing, not for the better; and, in any case, it always had its petty, oppressive aspects. The young protagonist of *A Handful of Stars* defies the "living dead" by peering through their lawmen with a shotgun, a stocking ineptly pulled over his head. Danger Doyle, the much-mythologised wild man of *Poor Beast*, runs off with a married woman to the London fleshpots, only to end up anxiously feeding her tranquillisers. The one thing worse than living in Wexford, it seems, is not living in Wexford.

When Billy was 20, his father's bar burned down, to be replaced with a dull, anonymous lounge. Before long, he left his fortune in England as a folk-singer, something that had brought him modest success in Ireland. But he ended up as a hod-carrier and, even after his wife joined him, not a very happy man. So back home he went, first to form his own touring rock-band, then to write a couple of novels and, with *A Handful of Stars* in 1988, his first play. "It's been a struggle but at long last I've come to terms with Wexford," he says ruefully. "It's my home. I belong there."

That is good news for the rest of us. After all, the place continues to provide him with themes that are distinctively Irish and yet much more than Irish: the need for roots and the tendency of roots to trap and tangle the individual; the pull of the past; loss and loneliness; the emotional power of parents even when they are absent or dead; the struggle to become a self-sufficient man. And Wexford gives him the human and the verbal wherewithal to bring those ideas to life. How many contemporary writers give us the feeling that O'Casey has been exhumed in order to set a Chekhov short story to dialogue? Brian Friel at times; and now Billy Roche.

He himself feels a responsibility to a language he thinks "inarticulate, but very beautiful and in danger of disappearing, leaving everybody sounding the same". He also believes in the strength of hint. "My pet hate is reiteration," he says. "I'd be disappointed if an audience got everything the first time. I want the actors, too, to go on being surprised by what they find in their characters." And again: "When I think about life I feel sad, but I'm not a sad person. I want to laugh. I want to cry. I want to do both together. In my plays laughter and tears are brother and sister."

The most impressive result to date of this thinking is *Belfry*: a simple story of a sacristan who falls for the woman who arranges the church flowers, a priest desperately battling with feelings of inadequacy and failure, and assorted



Billy Roche, on stage at the Bush Theatre: "In my plays, laughter and tears are brother and sister"

other small-town loners; and a play rich in implication and subtext. His next project, a play called *Amphibians* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, also promises to suggest more than it states. It is about the last fisherman in Wexford not to have been packed off to the sea-food factory, but also, he says, "about the death of culture, language and story-telling".

Roche would be the first to agree that, though he is the wrong side of 40, he remains a novice as a playwright. He has something still to learn about pace and shape. Yet his apprentice structures combine understatement with other qualities beyond all but a few of his more experienced contemporaries. He can spot the essentials of a character without becoming censorious,

sentimental or didactic. But his prime gift is rarer: a spark, an instinct for the theatre, an x-factor as indefinable as it is unmistakable. Not many dramatists in the last 20 or 30 years have left the nape of this critic's neck tingling. Last week, Billy Roche did just that.

Billy Roche's Belfry continues at the Bush Theatre, London W12 081-743 3381 until December 21

BRIEFING

Gasman winneth

BRITISH Gas won the top prize for a corporate programme at this week's Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts/Daily Telegraph awards for business sponsors of the arts. At the National Theatre ceremony, winners of the 11 corporate awards were presented by the Duchess of Kent with statues made by Jon Mills (and sponsored by Eli Aquitaine UK). A week after handing out £200,000 in prizes itself in its annual arts awards, Prudential reaped its reward for the best single project. Silhouette, which makes spectacle frames, was judged best first-time sponsor for the Egon Schiele exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Other winners were Citibank (art and urban regeneration); United Distillers (overseas award for Scottish Balmer's first Japanese tour); Purline International (art for the disabled); Barclays Bank (the new-art award); Digital (for its Partners in Dance programme); the Woolwich Building Society for youth sponsorship; and two firms, Bryant and Tucker and Banbury Plastics, for sponsorship by small businesses.

Safe hands

THE appointment of Peter Stevens to be managing director of the Chichester Festival Theatre brings an experienced hand to the helm of a storm-tossed vessel. Stevens was administrator of the National Theatre when it moved to the South Bank; later he worked on Broadway and at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario. The Chichester theatre suffered the abrupt departure of its artistic director, Michael Rudman, earlier this year. Its present artistic director, Patrick Garland, comments that "it is wonderfully reassuring to have somebody of Peter Stevens's ability and experience to see us through these difficult times."

51 not out

THAT venerable animated classic, Walt Disney's *Panama*, is showing enviable vigour more than 50 years after it first appeared. In just one week on sale in America as a home video it sold an astonishing 11.4 million units. That makes the film (now available in Britain) the best-selling video of the year, with a fair chance of becoming all-time best.

WITH seven months still to run, the Covent Garden opera season has no more Verdi after *Simon Boccanegra*. All the more reason to catch one of the final performances (tonight, Saturday). The cast is led by Alexander Agache in the title role and a fine young Italian bass, Roberto Scanduzzi, as his enemy, Fiesco. Kiri Te Kanawa is the girl who links the two. Sir Georg Solti, in the pit, achieves high standards.

Last chance

THE Arts Council response seemed churlish. He will not reveal what he wants for 1992-93, but the allocation has to be "significant, in real terms" if it is to satisfy him, and 20 per cent would not be unreasonable.

His vision of the South Bank as the world's largest arts centre remains undimmed. That is perhaps surprising, after a year in which plans for the £200 million South Bank development were radically recast. "There is a shift southwards of the centre of quality in London, and Waterloo is still being developed into an international travel terminus, so I have no doubt about the importance of the South Bank." He still expects work on Terry Parrell's remodelling of the South Bank to begin in 1994.

ARTS REVIEWS

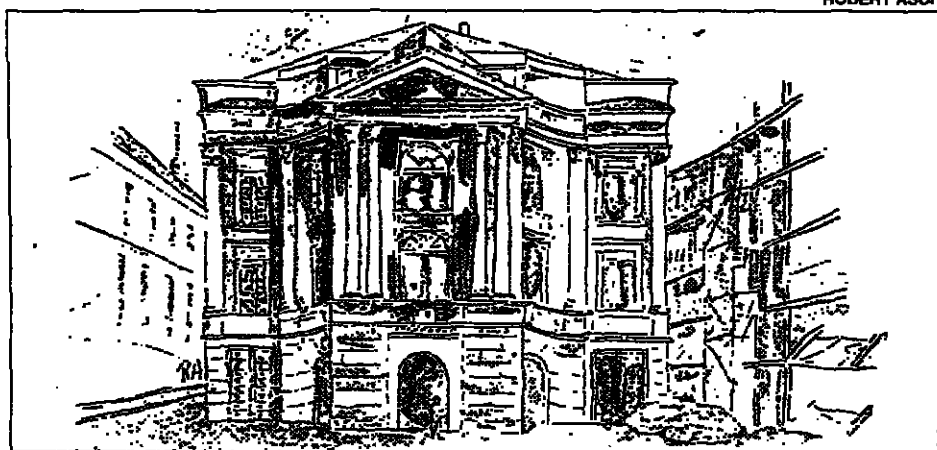
Theatre and Music
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ARCHITECTURE

Curtain rises on Mozart's stage

The Prague theatre where *Don Giovanni* was premiered has been restored to its 18th-century glory. Kenneth Asch reports

ROBERT ASCH



The Estates Theatre in Prague: built in 1783 as a nobleman's gift to his city

try with a request to use the Estates Theatre as a principal location for filming Peter Shaffer's Mozart play, *Amadeus*.

Though initially hostile to co-operation with Hollywood, the Czechs swiftly changed their tune when it was made clear that a million dollars, more or less, would be the theatre's share of the film's profits.

Later, the film's sumptuous period reconstruction of ex-

tracts from Mozart operas at the Estates Theatre may have served to open Czech eyes to the neglected potential of the 18th-century jewel in the heart of their capital. This million-dollar windfall allowed for work to begin on restoring the Estates to its former glory, though it has taken ten years for that to happen.

The new *Don Giovanni* production has its controversial aspect. Some tickets to

Sunday's performance are selling officially at £125, which places them well out of reach of the citizens of Prague themselves. The chief sponsor for the performances is Banker's Trust, a company reputed to be the chief source of privatisation advice to the Czech government.

The musical credentials of Sunday's performance, however, seem guaranteed. It is conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, long a champion

of Czech music and music-making, and also a distinguished Mozartian. He has recently completed the recording with the Prague Chamber Orchestra of all Mozart's symphonies, now almost 50 in number.

Nobody could be better placed to celebrate Mozart's achievement in a city with which the composer felt a particular affinity. From the acclaim which greeted *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, to the overwhelming success of *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1786 and the triumphant premiere of *Don Giovanni* the following year, Prague's musically sophisticated audience responded enthusiastically to the composer's music. *Don Giovanni* especially, with its rousing choral celebration of liberty at the end of Act I, had powerful political resonances in a city whose Bohemian cultural identity was suppressed under Habsburg rule.

At a time when those resonances are particularly strong in newly democratised eastern Europe, Sunday's *Don Giovanni* in Prague will provide one especially apt bicentenary celebration, a reminder of the enduring power of the music behind the hype.

Banking on a little bonus

Britain's top arts centre wants "fairer" funding this year, writes Simon Tait

AT THE Prudential Arts Awards last week, Lord Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, lauded the generosity of the assurance company and its chairman, Sir Brian Corby, in sponsoring the richest of Britain's arts prizes.

This week the Arts Council decides how to share out its bumper budget of £221 million. And now Corby is wearing a rather different hat. For as well as heading the Prudential and the CBI, Sir Brian is chairman of the South Bank Board, and he is seeking redress for what the South Bank claims is a 25 per cent cumulative shortfall on funding over five years.

Corby took over at the South Bank from Sir Ronald Grierson a year ago. Almost immediately he had to contend with the South Bank's modest grant for 1991-92: only a 5.5 per cent increase when others were getting 8.5 per cent and more, and nothing from the enhancement fund.

Corby said nothing publicly, though his administrative director Richard Pulford protested against a "public scandal" and declared: "We are being penalised for the excellence of our systems. We have shown what we can do and are being punished for it."

Instead of being able to pay off the outstanding deficit of about £500,000, the South Bank has carried it through a year of recession.

But privately, the urbane Corby was seething. "We had gone through a year of considerable prudence. We had cut things that perhaps should have been kept going."

STEPHEN PETTITT

to reduce our shortfall. The Arts Council response seemed churlish. He will not reveal what he wants for 1992-93, but the allocation has to be "significant, in real terms" if it is to satisfy him, and 20 per cent would not be unreasonable.

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LONDON CONCERTS

Authentic in its way

THE season of *Messiah* has returned, but this year even Handel's masterpiece cannot free itself from Mozartian celebration. Mozart's orchestration of *Messiah*, made in 1789, is back in vogue. Besides last Saturday's performance, given (in German) by the English Chamber Orchestra and Tallis Chamber Choir at the Barbican, two more are scheduled for London in December.

Mozart made his arrangement in response to a commission from his patron, Baron van Swieten, but it is clearly a careful act of homage. True, Mozart did make certain radical changes. Yet these changes, by the standards of the time, constitute no heresy. Handel himself varied the text from performance to performance. He

could not know that posterity would later elevate this or that aria to the position of indispensable gem.

Sir Charles Mackerras, though conducting an orchestra of modern-style instruments, knows as much about the substance of Handel as Mozart. He relished this score as if it had been composed yesterday, spruce in his rhythms, dramatic and dynamic in his attack. The ECO responded vibrantly, and the excellent Tallis Chamber Choir provided a firm choral bedrock for the piece. Meanwhile the solo quartet of Felicity Lott, Sarah Walker, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and the wonderfully rich-voiced Bryn Terfel added much to the excitement and emotion.

By contrast, the Chamber

Orchestra of Europe's account under Frans Brüggen's direction of another great oratorio, Haydn's *The Creation*, in the same hall on Monday seemed tame. Brüggen's manner is perhaps too refined for this piece; he showed some reluctance to admit its vital, earthy qualities. Even the Tallis Chamber Choir, on duty again, sounded less alert. The soprano, Amanda Rocroft, sang brightly but unexceptionably, while the bass, David Thomas, though eager to put maximum expression into his performance, erred occasionally in his intonation. Laurence Dale was, however, a hearteningly warm and secure tenor, and the COE made some lovely sounds.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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Margaret Jay tells Walter Ellis why primary school children need detailed sexual, not sex, education

Seated in the living room of her flat in Little Venice, London, overlooking the Grand Canal, she is entirely at ease discussing condoms and the need for detailed sexual (not to mention political) education for the young. Comparable in front of her are giving clues to her political nudeness: *Whatever's Happening to Women?* by Julia Newberg; *Manions of Limbo*, by Doris Dunne, the author of *An Incontinent Woman*.

'People still think that knowing their new partner's sexual history is being able to say they know his or her cousin or brother. It's simply incredible'

"You have to start very young at the primary schools. The fact that health and the facts of their life should be given to children from so sensibly. Then it would be familiar territory and it would be possible for parents to discuss it in a low-key way. The extraordinary embarrassments of sex education would be made easier if people were used to the notion of their own bodies. I am talking about a generation when sex was taboo and we cut up toads and pinflov and we cut up toads and

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Margaret Jay: Aids prevention, she believes, can be achieved by openness and early education

Aids has achieved the status of an epidemic in large areas of the third world and cautions against the view that, somehow, the Channel can be a barrier against the worsening situation in parts of

If this is the reality, the trust's director is ready for it. "I'm interested. I really enjoy it. People think that's odd."

Fair treats

THE Richmond Fellowship's seventh annual crafts fair takes place on Saturday and Sunday from 11am until 5pm each day at 8 Addison Road, London W14. Previous such events have raised more than £10,000 for the mental health charity, which helps people who have difficulties with their emotional lives, whether through depression, alcoholism or addiction. Crafts should be of the highest quality and will include the English pewter tableware of David Hayward, and silver and gold jewellery by Charmain Harris. The fellowship's own Cambridge Workshop will sell its handmade wooden toys. The fellowship's building, where the fair takes place, is a magnificent Edwardian house built in 1906 by Halsey Ricardo for Sir Ernest Denham, known as 'The Peacock House'. Admission is £2.50 for adults, £1 for children, pensioners and people who are not earning.

Talking turkey

CHRISTMAS turkeys get the bird this month from *Green* magazine, which urges its readers who are not vegetarian to choose chicken instead, since "welfare standards for chicken are tighter than those for turkeys." To have turkey, *Green* asks people to choose a bird from members of the Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Association (telephone: 0323 899802), which are less intensively bred than many, although not free-range. Breeders producing free-range turkeys from between £1.28 to £2.21 per pound include Derek Kelly in Danbury, Essex (telephone: 0245 3581), while Farmer's Glory near Northallerton, North Yorkshire (telephone: 0609 7711) will direct you to local stockists of its cheaper frozen free-range birds.



Sweet ideas: Jane Asher

Times for tea

JANE ASHER's cake shop opens an adjoining tea shop today at 22 Cale Street, London SW3. There will be special treats for all readers of *The Times* under ten who bring an adult or two along for tea, and present this item. The tearoom will serve croissants from the Roux Brothers' bakery, in addition to slices from the cakes baked in the shop next door. "There will be toasted sandwiches and baked potatoes with fillings, and soup," Miss Asher says. She will be there today to start things off.

A cut above

BUDDING fashion designers may wish to sign on for the first fashion design course held by Christie's education department — a wonderful Christmas present for an aspiring couturier. The course, which starts on January 16, consists of eight weekly talks between 7pm and 8pm at Christie's Education, 63 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (telephone: 071 581 3933). Designers to be discussed include Balenciaga, Chanel and Paul Poiret. A brochure of all Christie's classes is available from the above address.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Lucy's damn fine new role

**Stand by for *Twin Peaks*, the prequel.
Actor Kimmy Robertson sets the scene**

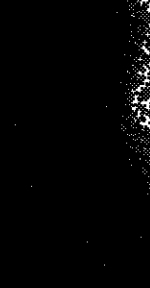
We left Agent Cooper in the Black Lodge—with a lot of red drapes and a Laura Palmer lookalike. What happened? And what happens next? Those few dozen faithfuls who stayed with the American television series *Twin Peaks* until it abandoned us are still waiting for answers. The suspense is killing us, but it has already killed the series, so instead of going on with it, David Lynch has directed a feature film of what happened before Laura Palmer's death.

Kimmy Robertson, who played Lucy Moran, the sheriff's receptionist, was in London this week not to talk about the forthcoming film, as you might expect, but to give a few teasing clues and cross references. The film, called *Firewalk with Me*, is an appearance by David Bowie and Harry Dean Stanton have come on to the scene: Agent Cooper, played by Kyle MacLachlan, who did not show up in *Twin Peaks* until after Laura Palmer's murder, is revealed what he was up to before he was there. And Lynch, who made himself scarce while *Twin Peaks* the series was being filmed, is back in the director's chair.

When Ms Robertson appears in her hotel lobby, tiny and poker-faced, yawning, it soon becomes apparent that we are not going to get to the heart of the matter. The truth is shrouded in uncertainty and the people implicated are not telling. She is suitably mystical, too, about Lynch's non-appearance during filming of the television series. "It was like he was there, really. After he'd directed the first two to three hours it sort of self-directed." The great David Lynch myth is intact.

At a great fan of Lynch, she went into the audition without knowing which character she was reading for. "The main point was it was my one and only chance to speak to David Lynch," she says. My friends and I said: "OK, I'm going to ask him this, this and this. Is there something I've missed?" I wanted to ask him very specific questions. I never did audition. I just talked. I knew almost everybody and went straight to David. I guess he was a bit flattered. There was a coming in absolutely fanatic."

She did not get much of an answer. "He just said: 'Really, that so?' " All the same, it worked. Lynch had sketched in the char-




Cherry pie: "David says these pe-

ter of the receptionist in the sheriff's office, but when he met Ms Robertson he "tweaked everything up a few decibels".

Lucy's characteristically long and agonisingly detailed descriptions began with Ms Robertson's own rambling cross-examination, and she quickly gained im-

portance as a character. The subplot of her romance with Andy, the deputy, provided a bit of comic relief as the horror story intensified.

Then there is the Voice. Lucy's vertiginous little girl voice is famous; it belies a character of great stubbornness. Kimmy Rob-



g Lady,' Kimmy Robertson says
 ertson is just a few tones lower,
 but not many. "Lucy's up here
 more. Sherruff?" the voice goes up
 like a swing. "I don't talk like that
 unless I'm talking to my boy-
 friend. Pederrr?"
 The morning after the pilot was
 shown, Ms Robertson had a call
 Barbara. It is not

Lovejoy and Fawcett Towers" and Lynch has promised to appear. His has become an avuncular figure, a hero, and Mrs. Robertson's burning questions have been replaced by blind faith.

"I used to study his stuff and I wondered what certain things symbolised, and now I've worked with him and I can talk to him any time I want. I don't even think about those things anymore." The cast of the series never analysed the clues. Nobody, given his directions, ever asked, "why?"

After two seasons of *Twin Peaks* without a character and peopled with imprudent children who kept turning into each other, audiences began to feel they were being manipulated. But if David Lynch has been making a mockery of us, his cast is not in on the joke. "David says these people exist. Somewhere there is a big Lady. She may be called something else, but for David these people are for real."

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Peacekeeping is forever

Roger Boyes fears that the UN may face a full-scale war in the Balkans

The blue-helmeted United Nations troops who are supposed to end the grisly war in Yugoslavia are marching straight into a Balkan marsh. If other peacekeeping operations are a guide — the British in Northern Ireland, the UN in Cyprus and Lebanon — they will be lucky to be home by the end of the century.

Northern Ireland in particular shows that there are no easy exits. In 1969, when British soldiers went into Belfast and Londonderry to pull apart warring factions, they saw their main goal as protecting the Roman Catholic minority. Soon enough the IRA was exploiting Catholic resentments, and the army found that its mission had become part peace-enforcement, part civil policing and part anti-terrorist warfare. The UN troops are likely to be whipping boys for a dozen groups in Yugoslavia, from the ferocious bearded Serbian Chetniks to the slightly crazed teenagers in right-wing Croatian units.

UN to mark out the captured land which is, in effect, the frontier of a future greater Serbia. Belgrade is busily recruiting Serbian settlers to populate the mixed townships abandoned by the Croats during the war.

So there is no fixed front line for the UN to take over. At present, the idea is to follow Lord Carrington and identify and state clearly the grievances of Serbs and Croats, and to ensure that the fighting does not spread into Bosnia-Herzegovina. At first UN troops would probably be based in Bosnia. Then, when local cease-fires are arranged and the Yugoslav army withdraws, the UN could move in to fill security vacuums. That is sensible enough, but it ignores the danger that the conflict is on the cusp of becoming a full-scale Balkan war.

United Nations soldiers might well succeed in inducing calm in Croatia, if only because the Yugoslav army needs time to restore its strength and prepare a strategy for the winter. But what is the UN to do if the rest of Yugoslavia explodes?



Carrington: first identify the grievances

This is more than scaremongering. The Muslims of Bosnia are becoming more militant, and are arming in case of an attack by Serbian radicals. Various clandestine visits to Libya and Iran have been made by Bosnian Muslims to secure money and other support for the endangered Muslims of Yugoslavia. The Albanians, also looking for aid from the Middle East, are becoming more determined to defend the Muslims in the Serbian-controlled province of Kosovo.

Middle Eastern countries are being drawn willy-nilly into the politics of the Balkans. The new Bulgarian leadership, for example, can only rule with the parliamentary backing of the ethnic Turkish minority.

Chiefly, the UN has to sort out the big philosophical problems. Should multinational intervention now be regarded as the standard way to end the myriad territorial and ethnic conflicts erupting in Eastern Europe? Must the UN devise a new collective security system to take into account the new nationalist upsurge?

The UN troops are likely to sustain more casualties in Yugoslavia than in any of the earlier peacekeeping missions. But the greatest danger is perhaps not from dum-dum bullets and mortars, but the risk that the UN will look ridiculous. For the past few months, the war in Croatia has been regarded by the West as a brutal Balkan football match, full of fouls and nastiness. The UN might prove an effective referee in such a game. It has the experience and the authority. But the match is turning out to be one of those that infects the fans, and the violence on the field is likely to spread to the stands. All the referee will be able to do then is blow and blow on his whistle, gesturing helplessly. There is no sadder sight.

Peter Millar argues that class, still so tenacious in Britain, can be a social backbone

From clogs to clogs

Matthew Arnold, as befitted the son of the headmaster of Rugby, had his own ideas of the class divisions in British society: "barbarians, philistines and populace".

He was not very fond of any of them, but he had no doubt there were layers. Social geology, in the form of minute identification of strata, is the national pastime. Just as popular, however, are attempts to ban this borderline sport: prime ministers from Attlee to Major have preached the goal of a classless society to a nation ready to applaud but not ready to pay any attention.

Last night's first instalment of Michael Cockerell's four-part BBC2 series *Class Rule* erred on the side of caution by preferring history to analysis. But it did offer entertaining insights into what really signifies class, since the determination to abolish it moved — over four and a half decades — from the hands of a socialist educated at Eton and Oxford to the Tory son of a circus entertainer.

One of the most interesting passages of time has worked not to abolish class, but to reshape its attributes for each generation. Thus Tony Benn and Lord Deedes

(formerly the aristocratic Anthony Wedgwood Benn and plain Bill Deedes) could postulate *ad infinitum*, but the salient point to the viewer was their shared tendency to talk like a bad ventriloquist without a dummy, a surefire identifier of the upper echelons in the older generation.

At the heart of this seemingly senseless set of circles — from nationalisation to privatisation, Tory to Labour to Tory, even Heath to Thatcher to Major — lies the old confusion between class and political ideology. The assumption of the existence of "class war" was an example of left-wing ideologists seizing on circumstance. But the idea had roots in reality: whatever Macmillan said, he was an easy target for Harold Wilson's jibe about "men who believe they are ordained by providence to rule".

It had never been that simple: the tensions in Attlee's cabinet between the Etonian socialists and the working-class heroes were a classic Bolshevik versus Menshevik conflict. Lenin's party was based on elitism, and the old Soviet Union had clearer class differences than post-war Britain at any time. In one light, even Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, guru of the snobs, could qualify as a Bolshevik. Pre-Gorbachev Moscow, as nowhere else, had a seemingly unassailable hereditary ruling class.

The image of him standing on his Jag in the East End proclaiming that if you wanted a car like that you had to work for it and vote Tory was one that would have resounded in the heart of any German in the years of the *Wirtschaftswunder*.

Not having had the dubious advantage of a social fabric razed by fascism and bombs, the Tories got it only half-right in the Supremacy and Heath years. But more than they were laying the basis for the Thatcherite revolution, by selling the Tory party as not just the establishment camp, but a club one could join for one's own social advancement. English ideas of class were to switch from a tradition close to the Hindu — a caste system based on breeding — to one closer to the Chinese, in which, on a generational rollercoaster, a peasant family could move successively to merchant class, then aristocrat, thence to wastrel and back to peasant. The English had always believed it

took three generations to make a gentleman, but there had been a belief that, once he arrived, the family stayed there.

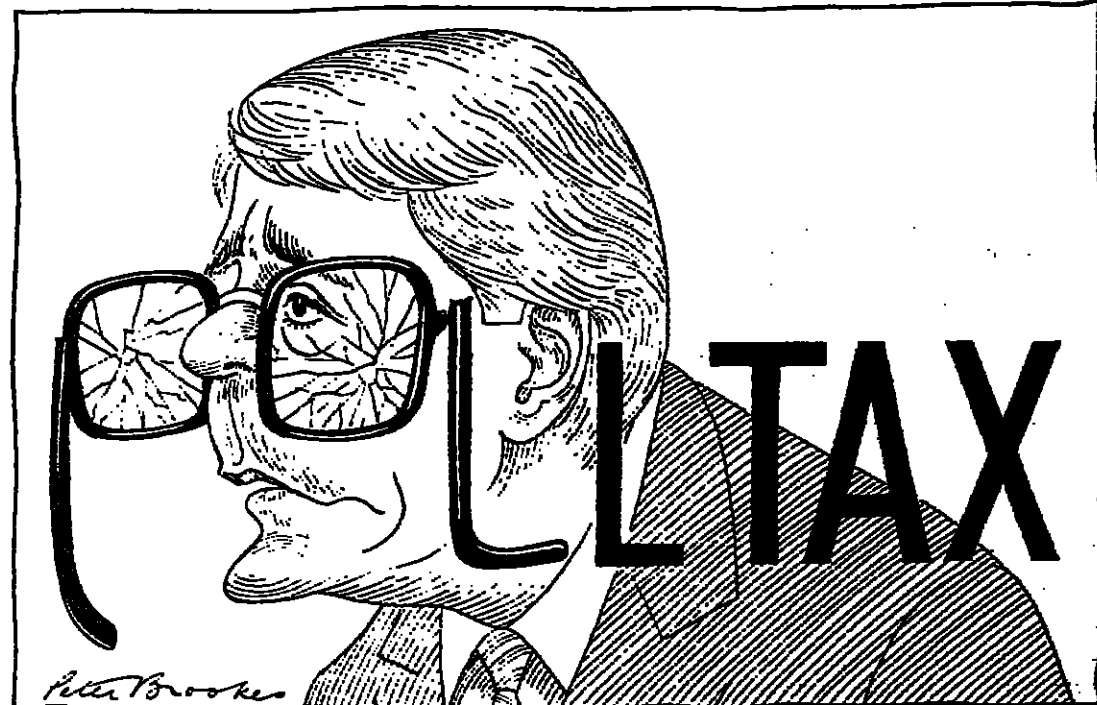
The assumption of post-war Conservative politics — now adopted with much gnashing of teeth by Labour — is that, contrary to received tradition, money can buy class. It is not just money, of course, but the whole baggage of meritocracy: education, culture and career achievement. From this point of view, John Major can, perversely, be seen as the triumph of Clement Attlee's dream.

The trouble is that Mr Major clearly still thinks the class system exists, or else he would not be so keen on abolishing it. Perhaps he should think again. It may be that a class structure, refined and subtly stratified, is a backbone of sorts. Even the Germans, having shed much self-doubt in the wake of unification, are now rediscovering their aristocrats. In the end, perhaps, we are scared of the instability in the Chinese model. Class is something we want not to abolish but to hold on to.

My favourite remark from *Class Rule* was that of Tim Bell, Mrs Thatcher's public relations adviser: "I'm a business class. I think, though I travel first class."

A new way to pay old debts

The poll tax account is not yet settled, says Tony Travers



E257 benchmark, and that capping will work in such a way as to avoid embarrassing cuts and/or dozens of Tory councils being branded as "overspenders". But if things go badly, community charges in urban areas will leap because of non-payment, while nice, rural Tory districts are capped and their county colleagues (or, worse still, schools) have to sack teachers.

Ministers' problems are derived from the fact that they now control — and, indeed, are convinced that the public holds them responsible for — all the main local government finance indicators. An unholy trinity of pay, spending and local taxation are all directly or indirectly determined by Whitehall and its agents.

Pay for the police, fire brigade and teachers accounts for a massive proportion of council spending. Services overseen by the Home Office — police and fire — have their pay set by banana-republic style index-linking ar-

rangements, which government itself introduced. Teachers' pay is now in the hands of a review body. If, as is likely, pay increases offered to each of these large, high-cost groups exceeds the average allowed in the government's plans next year, one of two things may happen. First, councils may demand extra cash from the government to pay the difference. Second, cuts — and possibly redundancies — might follow.

Neither option would be very appealing during the election campaign. As a result, Home Office and education ministers must have been lobbying hard in cabinet to win their services the biggest possible share of the extra spending allowed for next year. The Home Office has been successful in winning an extra £500 million of specific grant to pay for the additional police officers promised recently by the Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker.

Spending is, in effect, limited in all authorities by the threat of cap-

ping. Theoretically, councils can exceed their targets, but in practice all who can possibly squeeze below them do so. The capping rules for 1992-3 are among the much delayed package of financial details. The pay problem interacts with the government's decisions about who and how to cap. Generosity shown to the councils responsible for paying the police and the teachers will leave less cash for the rest. In the non-metropolitan areas, this has meant being nice to the not-very-Tory shires at the expense of the still-just-Tory districts.

Put bluntly, as the counties' potential pay bills are met, dozens of gentle Tory districts could be for the chop (or rather the cap), though the new rules give them some chance of avoiding the worst excesses of capping. This would give Mr Major a double embarrassment. First, the election would be fought against a background of capped Tory districts. Second, the government is effectively propos-

ing to do away with the counties in most areas in order to create new unitary authorities based on the (potentially capped) districts. All of this boils down to a choice between cuts in police and teacher numbers on the one hand, and capped Tory districts on the other.

The final part of the government's problem is the poll tax, which is supposed to have been sorted out. What if each morning during a March election campaign brings reports of unexpectedly high poll tax bills? No one really knows the impact of non-payment on next year's bills, but each extra £10 per adult to cover non-payment would add another 4 per cent to the average year-on-year increase. The move from a 4 per cent to an 8 per cent increase would bring the rise to double the rate of inflation.

Opinion surveys suggest that the majority of the public blames the government for poll tax levels, which is reasonable since the government introduced the thing, and poll tax levels are overwhelmingly influenced by government grant support. Government-capped spending minus government subsidy plus non-payment surcharge equals poll tax. Who will you hold responsible for such a bill?

A profound constitutional change has occurred. Until recently, decisions about council spending and tax levels were made around council committee tables. Now they are made at the cabinet table. Ministers have this year come to realise just how awkward it is to pacify local electorates who want ever more spending on police, schools and other services while simultaneously expecting static or falling local taxes. Paradoxically, the smaller and more limited local tax becomes, the greater the pressure on ministers to decide everything and to spend more. This paradox will be the electorate's revenge for the great poll tax disaster.

Tony Travers is co-author of *The Government of London*, published by the Joseph Rowntree Trust at £5.50.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

While I of course wish Times Millennium better luck than the Third Reich, it is the longevity of my face, not this newspaper's, with which the pair of us are today concerned. More, yet together, we are about to speculate not merely upon whether, in 2091, my face will be reading this, but how many of my faces might be doing so. There could well be a lot of me about. Also a lot of you, dear reader. No "s" on reader, a couple of dozen of you might stroll, upon that far November day, into, say, the Athenaeum, sneeze, and find a couple of dozen of me glaring at you from our irritably rattling sheets of Times Millennium.

If this scenario does indeed take place, it will all have started with an offer just received by the present one of me from a Californian company whose letter-head teems with law degrees, medical degrees, and several doctorates in this and that. They do not give the provenance of these qualifications, and while I rather suspect you can get them by sending in 10 coffee labels and 50 bucks and finishing the sentence "I would like to be a PhD because...", I shall not name the company, just in case they turn out to be genuine degrees and the lawyers holding them know enough about libel to put the company on Easy Street. Especially as Easy Street is patently where the company is trying to head. That is why they have written to me.

Since, however, they have

written to me as a leader of world opinion, we might immediately wonder whether they know a fat lot about anything else, either. I have enough trouble following world opinion. But having decided that that is what I am, they believe that I will want to avail myself of their offer of immortality. I can get this by mailing them a bit of me, and \$2,000. It would be \$5,000 if I were not a leader of world opinion, but since I am, I can have this terrific discount in return for letting them use my name in their future publicity, in order to part from their \$5,000 fools who think my opinion is worth having.

The money is there "to process and permanently protect" the bit of me they want mailed. This, decorously described as genetic material, will be used to clone me at such time as I wish to reappear on earth, "on any date after the perfection of a replicative procedure already well advanced." I.e. at the moment, they can only do frogs.

When they can do human beings, that permanent protection will consist of a legal document between me and them stopping anyone else from knocking out Corens by the gross. It is, in effect, a copyright agreement. It also binds them to cloning me "at the exact moment" I wish to be cloned, and "guarantees your wish, if you so choose, to be replicated not more than once per century," thereby avoiding such unsettling scenes as the hereinabove-mentioned Athenaeum example or, indeed,

100,000 of me turning up at Wembley for the 2467 Cup Final. But only if I so choose.

Now, if I were a leader of world opinion I suppose I would know what these crackpots mean by replicated, but I am not. So, do I come back as a baby, or as the battered thing you see atop this column? If a baby, will I get parents, or have to crawl around fending for myself? If an adult, will the replication be as total and precise as the word implies, and if so, how — given my present language, habits, thoughts, experiences, impulses, tastes, attitudes — shall I cope?

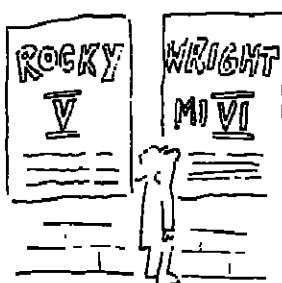
By 2467, should that be where I stick my pin, everyone may be speaking Chinese, extra-laboratory sex may be punishable by death, mine may be the only form and the monocycle the only form of transport. Worse, there may not be people at all. God knows what thermonuclear cock-ups lie in store, I could materialise into a world of cannibal mutants who have lost the knack of curing tobacco and distilling vodka and who communicate by breaking wind. Worse yet, the Californian clonarium may soon have suckered enough dollars to ensure that whatever unprinted copies of what there is now, you might keep running into Gerald Kaufman.

You, I say, Not I. Thinking things through, I believe I may have just come to my first world opinion. It's still unpolished, of course, but basically it's about how to save \$2,000.

First among sequels

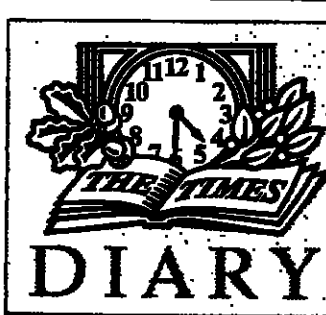
PETER WRIGHT may soon have a second cause for celebration. As a result of the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, his publishers, Heinemann, are reconsidering their initial decision not to incur further publication wrath through British publication of his "son of Spycatcher" sequel.

The directors will convene an extraordinary board meeting in the next few days to discuss whether the court's decision gives them the green light to publish *The Spycatcher's Encyclopedia of Espionage*, which went on sale in



Australia last month. The book repeats much of the old *Spycatcher* details, but among the new material are claims that M16 routinely bugged the London hotel rooms of visiting diplomats and bankrolled waiters in top restaurants to ensure that the vase of flowers hiding the microphone reached the right table.

Wright also tells the story of the chairman of a large British company, a well-known womaniser, who was warned by the security



services to be wary of approaches by attractive women on a trip to Moscow. He allegedly could not resist, but fooled the KGB by wearing a pillowcase with eyeholes over his head throughout his night of passion.

One book, however, is certain not to be published in Britain as a result of the court ruling: *Spycatcher* itself. "It was a spectacular phenomenon," says Heinemann, "but everyone who wanted to read it did so long ago."

MPs from all three major parties took on peers in a charity swimming contest on Monday night at London's Broadgate club. But with the proceeds from the event going to children's charities in Northern Ireland and with Peter Brooke, the secretary of state for the province as the guest of honour, the organisers should have known better than to kit out the swimmers in swimwear and silk gowns of bright Ulster orange. The gaffe was pointed out only hours before the parliamentarians took the plunge. Fresh costumes in a neutral shade of turquoise were hastily found.

Ready when needed

MUCH to the relief of the government, Mrs Thatcher has been conveniently out of the way in the Middle East since her notorious

television interview. But the relief may be short-lived. After her extensive round of overseas trips, Mrs Thatcher is to stay in Britain until after Christmas. It means she will be on hand to make her own unique contribution throughout the Maastricht summit and in the inevitable post-mortem.

She seems certain to be present in the Commons, an uncomfortable three rows behind John Major when he returns to make his report. If he comes back with an agreement the anti-federalists do not like, supporters expect Mrs Thatcher to use her position to spearhead a fresh assault.

Ministers will be more relieved to learn that Mrs Thatcher, who informs the Foreign Office of all her travel arrangements, will be away for much of the run-up to the general election. Her office says her diary is already booked for most of next year, with America again featuring prominently. Ominously, however, she is prepared to cancel all plans at short notice to "help" during the election itself.

Authentic sound?

FOR decades, fans of Sir Georg Solti have lamented his refusal to conduct the complete version of Mozart's Requiem, perhaps the most notable omission from his indefatigable conducting record. This week they rejoiced in his first-ever performance of all five sections, first in Birmingham and then last night at Leeds town hall. So why did the maestro change heart? "I had always been afraid of the myth surrounding Mozart's Requiem," says Solti. "We only know for sure that the first two movements are by Mozart, and the rest is guesswork. But I am conducting a new version by the musicologist H.C. Robbins-Landon. I think it is the right version."

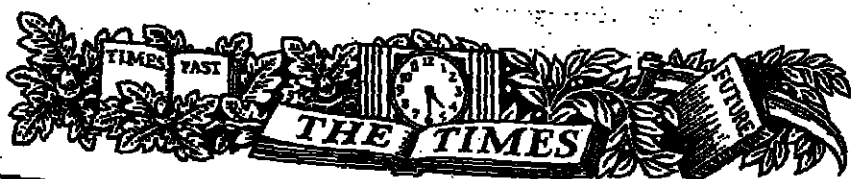
Solti will repeat the performance on December 5, the culmination of a year of Mozart celebrations, in St Stefan's Cathedral in Vienna, a stone's throw from the house where Mozart died, 200 years ago to the day.

Guess which Whitehall ministry was plunged into darkness for an hour yesterday, with all telephone lines down, and four people stuck in the lift? *The Department of Energy*, of course. Colin Mayhew, the junior secretary, has now instructed officials to ensure a permanent emergency supply of candles.

Short wait

BRITISH publishing has broken new ground this morning, with the appearance in bookshops of Gavin Hewitt's *Terry Waite: Why Was He Kidnapped?* The book contains chapters written on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, after Waite's release, and includes an interview with Oliver North. The publishers, Bloomsbury, are convinced that the speed of its production has set a record. Words were delivered to the publisher's Soho offices on Thursday, the book was printed over the weekend, complete with a post-release photograph of Waite on the cover, and the first copies delivered on Monday. The book was distributed yesterday and should now be on sale in high streets.

Even if the rapid publication is the fastest ever achieved for a serious title by a major commercial publisher in Britain, it falls short of the record set by Sir Frederick Mason, Britain's former ambassador to the United Nations. He oversaw publication of his *Village History: Ropley Past and Present* from sitting down to write to production of a thousand bound copies in just 12 hours and 26 minutes.



WRAPPED IN THE EC FLAG

Labour has enjoyed a free ride on Europe. The party has sat back to enjoy the Tory splits, modestly contrasting the allegedly timid approach of the government to the Maastricht summit with its own positive view of Britain's future role in the Community. No matter that this is all a staggering volte face from a decade ago. Besides, the unions are happy as clams with the emerging corporatism of the Brussels bureaucracy under the Eurosclerosis of Jacques Delors.

But Labour's claims are undermined by the reservations and qualifications with which the party has now hedged its support for economic and monetary union and political union. However monumental the curve of its U-turn from the outright opposition to Community membership of the early 1980s, the Labour leadership's sincerity is not in doubt. There is still a sizeable minority of dissenters, as John Major pointed out yesterday. Labour had more rebels at the end of last week's Commons debate than the Tories. But by a fairly ample majority, Labour and union leaders see in the EC a way to advance their general economic and social aspirations. Trade union leaders get a sympathetic response in Brussels to their demands for shorter hours, union privileges and a foot in the boardroom.

Labour's inclination and that of its backers is thus pro-Europe. But its policies are not so different from the government's. It too opposes a "federal goal" for the European Community. It too is cautious about a defence role for the EC, believing Europe's defence needs are satisfactorily met by Nato. It too wants a gradualist approach towards a common foreign policy.

The main differences are over the powers of the European parliament and over the social charter. Knowing well that the parliament outdoes even Brussels in its enthusiasm for higher public spending, Labour favours greater powers for the parliament in initiating legislative proposals. Labour also embraces the social charter and

the extension of qualified majority voting to employment issues. Unions are naturally keen to maintain protectionist barriers against imported goods and imported labour. The government rightly believes that such measures would substantially raise industrial costs.

Neil Kinnock yesterday claimed that the government is adopting a half-hearted and ambivalent attitude towards economic and monetary union. He said that, while it was procedurally possible to include an "opt out" clause in a treaty, "it was not possible for an economy increasingly integrated with the EC to opt out of the realities arising from that day-by-day integration of trade, finance and employment". But there is little practical difference in the Labour and Tory leadership positions on how a decision over moving to a single currency might be taken. Both parties reject a referendum. Mr Kinnock yesterday said there was "no question of any British government undertaking a movement into monetary union without referring to the parliament of the United Kingdom". The difference is over whether it is necessary to have an opt-out clause now.

More significant, Labour's support for a single currency is qualified by its insistence that monetary union must be accompanied by "implementing industrial, training and infrastructure policies that will sustain non-inflationary growth, high employment and balanced development". It is unlikely that the rest of the Community, particularly the German government, will agree to such a revision of the convergence guidelines and to such a potentially large regional redistribution of resources.

Labour is currently taking advantage of the freedoms of opposition to sound more enthusiastic about European union than the government. But in practice, many of its policies are as cautious and qualified as those of the Tories. Britain's partners in the EC should not be deluded by Mr Kinnock's rhetoric into believing that a change of government in Britain would also bring a serious change of heart.

MOI UNDER FIRE

President Daniel arap Moi's stiff-necked defiance of growing Western complaints over his tolerance of official corruption and intolerance of democracy has finally begun to cost him something more tangible than domestic unpopularity. Yesterday in Paris, Western governments jointly decided to let him wait six months for a decision on how much aid Kenya will receive next year. Once prosperous Kenya has become chronically dependent on this aid, which at nearly a billion dollars a year is worth more than its entire year's exports. Foreign pressure for reform is at last supplementing the efforts of Kenya's harassed pro-democracy demonstrators, against whom President Moi again turned bullets and teargas last weekend.

The donor governments' official reason was President Moi's failure to make good his promises of economic reform. They are critical of excessive state spending, but chief among their complaints is the persistence of corruption and nepotism. Denmark has already suspended all aid, because money for rural development simply disappeared. Some governments nearly boycotted the Paris meeting altogether. George Saitani, Kenya's vice-president, was read a stiff lecture on human rights abuses.

President Moi should never have chosen Mr Saitani to head the Kenyan delegation to the Paris meeting. In evidence given to the judicial commission of enquiry into the murder in 1990 of Kenya's respected foreign minister, Dr Robert Ouko, Mr Saitani is alleged to have demanded large bribes from foreign firms. The 244-day enquiry has graphically exposed the links between political repression, economic stagnation and corruption at the highest levels of government in Kenya.

Evidence of police obstruction and cabinet-level involvement in the murder was given by John Troon, the detective leading the British team which had been asked to investigate the murder. This has galvanised Kenyans and put the government increasingly on the defensive. Two of the prime suspects named by Mr Troon were the energy minister, Nicholas Biwott, and Ezekiah Oyugi, permanent secretary in the president's office responsible for state sec-

urity, close associates of Mr Moi. The president first appeared to be out to deflect criticism. He first shifted, then sacked both men although Mr Oyugi was given lucrative compensation by being made head of General Motors, Kenya.

Yesterday however, the president changed tack. He arrested the two, together with other prominent suspects named by Mr Troon. Simultaneously, he closed down the hearings. Closure gets Mr Moi out of responding to a new source of embarrassment. The presiding judges had just suspended the hearings in protest against police intimidation.

His announced intention is to speed up the murder investigations. But Kenyans are likely to be sceptical of manoeuvres which neatly remove the suspects from public view and close what had become a highly embarrassing window on the corrupt world of Kenyan politics.

Weak as it has been, Western pressure is having some effect. Men with reputations for integrity have replaced Mr Biwott, Mr Oyugi and others dismissed in last week's cabinet reshuffle. Mr Moi has softened his categorical opposition to democratic reforms recently, and is now talking of permitting multi-party elections within two to three years, although that did not stop him arresting several leaders of the pro-democracy movements last Saturday.

Outside pressure must now be intensified. Dr Ouko's murderers must be brought to speedy trial, with guarantees of no meddling with the independence of the courts. That would be a symbol of a genuine change of tack by the president. Kenyans are demanding a rapid transition to political pluralism, the release of political detainees and an end to endemic patronage and official corruption. The West, including Britain, has set a high value on "dialogue" with the Kenyan government. What is sorely needed is dialogue between the increasingly powerful opposition movements and the government, if the change which is now inevitable in Kenya is to be peaceful. Good government is now recognised as vital if aid is to be effective. President Moi continues to provide very bad government. Until he reforms, there should be no question of resuming foreign aid.

SENSE AND CENSORSHIP

The right of newspapers to print information already in the public domain might seem so basic to any democracy as to admit of no argument. Yesterday's *Spycatcher* judgment by the European Court of Human Rights shows that it agrees. That this victory for elementary press freedom should have required a long and expensive battle in the courts is an affront to good sense.

The British press remains bound by this country's laws on official secrets, confidence and contempt of court. The judgment does not prevent the government's efforts to quarrel with the government's efforts to prevent Peter Wright's memoirs ever seeing the light of day. By a narrow margin the court upheld the government's right, in the interests of national security, to impose the original injunctions on *The Observer* and *The Guardian* in 1986. But at least the court has dismissed the government's absurd contention that it was legitimate to extend the ban to *The Sunday Times* in 1987.

By that date, thanks largely to the publicity provided at taxpayers' expense by Lord Armstrong's performance in the Australian courts, Mr Wright's poorly written and not entirely novel essay in conspiracy theory was already on the American bestseller lists. The government made no attempt to stop at the customs any traveller who brought the book back from there. So it made no sense

whatsoever to flap the stable door ineffectually behind the bolting horse.

Only a government which had become blinded to the laws of logic could have claimed that maintaining the interlocking injunctions was necessary to protect "the authority and impartiality of the judiciary" pending the substantive hearing. Once the book was in print, it was absurd to maintain that the injunctions would prevent Mr Wright damaging national security by his breaches of confidence and official secrets.

To have been found in breach of Article 10 of the European Convention which guarantees freedom of information is a fittingly embarrassing conclusion to this journey through the judicial looking glass. From the introduction by Lord Armstrong of the words "economical with the truth" into the language's stock of euphemisms, to the Strasbourg judges' conclusion that the government had put "the reputation of the security service" before the public's legitimate right to know, the *Spycatcher* affair has made the British government look silly.

It is now obliged by the court's ruling to introduce legislation which ensures that never again is public money expended on futile efforts at prior censorship. It could have saved both face and expense by doing so without waiting for the European court.

Richter release in wider context

From Mr Ken James

Sir, Brian Keenan, Jackie Mann and Terry Waite, the hostages, were flown to RAF Lyneham where they were allowed to stay with their immediate families for as long as they wished. They were given medical examinations and counselling on how to cope with their freedom.

Ian Richter, the businessman, is flown to Heathrow, reunited with his wife and apparently left to fend for himself. Why do some men need counselling and others not? What is the difference between five years in the Bekaa valley and five years in Baghdad?

Yours faithfully,
KEN JAMES,
Flat 4, Lantanas Hall,
Kennett, Newmarket, Suffolk.
November 25.

From Mr Herb Greer

Sir, Your display of medieval pindancing ("Dealing with freedom"), leading article, November 25, over Ian Richter was a wonder to behold. It was particularly hilarious during a fortnight when the British media (you included) are trying to chew up Oliver North for dealing arms for hostages.

Mr Richter, you say, was not a "true" hostage. He was "an innocent man held for political reasons". Oh, forgive me, but is there any difference at all?

What do you imagine Iraq is going to buy with that £70 million price for Richter's head? Saddam Hussein has done incalculable and hideous damage to the Middle Eastern environment (not to mention its population); he is stubbornly continuing his nuclear programme; he is butchering minorities as viciously as he ever did, but you reckon it is fine if we "allow Iraq to use its own assets".

You do not suggest compulsory payment of any war-debts. Curious, that.

Yours,
HERB GREER,
124 Fog Lane,
Didsbury, Manchester.
November 25.

From Mr S. J. Lerner

Sir, The release of Ian Richter on presumably humanitarian grounds is to be welcomed, as is the government's decision to release some £70 million of Iraq's frozen funds held in the UK, for the purchase of medical and food products in the UK.

It would be equally welcome and humanitarian if the government insisted upon applying part of the remaining Iraqi funds that are still frozen in the UK to settle the many long-standing debts owed by Iraqi companies to British creditors, who have waited in vain for settlement.

This action would make a wonderful Christmas present to these many hard-pressed companies, particularly in these very difficult times.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. LERNER,
37 Howe Park Way,
Hove, East Sussex.
November 26.

From Mr Stephen Albrow

Sir, Now that Ian Richter is mercifully free from his Baghdad jail, and (according to your leader of November 25) may "be regarded as... innocent" of the offence of having bribed the mayor of that city, may we look to him to lead a campaign to clear the name of that hapless official who had the misfortune to be executed for accepting the presumably non-existent bribe?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ALBROW,
192 Castelnau, Barnes, SW13.
November 25.

From Mrs Elisabeth Ingham

Sir, My eldest daughter took her GCE exams in 1987. My son took his GCSEs this summer. My second daughter will take a new form of GCSEs in 1994. After that I have two more daughters for whom some different government may well find other forms of GCSEs.

I shall certainly be confused over the relative values of their exam results and I wonder if any future employers will be any the wiser.

I am, etc.,
ELISABETH INGHAM,
183 Randolph Avenue, W9.
November 21.

From Mr P. J. Westcombe

Sir, For the past year this society and English Heritage have tried to convince the Department of the Environment that some of the buildings in Blechley Park — the Buckinghamshire estate where Alan Turing developed his famous code-breaking machine Colossus, during the second world war — should be made the subject of a preservation order. The DoE insists, however, that there are no grounds for listing on architectural value, and insufficient grounds for a listing on historic value.

In addition to Blechley's three well-known wooden huts, we have also requested the listing of a number of brick buildings as examples of second world war utility construction. These buildings are complete with blast-proof roofs; they are in excellent condition and well maintained, thanks to the Civil Aviation

Outside intervention in Yugoslavia

From Professor Anthony Mortimer

Sir, Your editorial, "Mrs Thatcher's outburst" (November 25), could hardly be more wrongheaded when it comes to Croatia. Mrs Thatcher's suggestion that Croatia be recognised and given the means to defend itself is condemned as likely to reinforce Croatian intransigence and prolong the bloodbath. But wars usually end for one of two reasons: either because one side wins or because both sides realise that total victory is impossible.

Mrs Thatcher's proposal, if taken seriously, would surely favour the latter solution by showing the Serbs that they have already gone too far and by putting Europe in a position to obtain concessions from Croatia in exchange for help and recognition.

In the meantime it is not Serbia that has lost a third of its territory, not Serbia that has its towns bombarded by land, sea and air, and certainly not Serbia that is prepared to discuss autonomy for the overwhelming Albanian majority in Kosovo.

So whose intransigence is being encouraged at the moment? Why should the Serbs make the slightest concession as long as Europe allows their expansion to go unchecked? If your recipe for peace is a Serbian victory (and that is what it all adds up to), you should have the courage to say so.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY MORTIMER,
University of Fribourg,
Faculty of Arts,
Department of English,
Misericorde, CH-1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.

Environment record

From the Minister of State for the Environment and Countryside

Sir, I was impressed by the critique to which the Green Alliance has subjected every government department's 1991 annual report, to see how well they reflected our environmental commitments ("Green pledges wither on vine", November 25).

This was the first year that all 19 government departments were asked to produce their own reports and they did so in January, within four months of the publication of the white paper, *This Common Inheritance*. Inevitably, perhaps, with so little time to respond to a wholly new requirement, some may have fallen short of the environmental coverage outside commentators would have wished to see.

Nevertheless, so far as we know, no other government anywhere requires each of its departments to produce such a report.

In the year since those first reports were published, the prime minister has committed every department to giving an annual account of its environmental stewardship, and in the same management spirit we have

Repossessed homes

From Mrs Gillian Crow

Sir, The Chairman of the Catholic Building Society (letter, November 19) may have given a wrong impression regarding payment of mortgage interest under income support when she says that claimants "have to wait 16 weeks and then receive only a half of the mortgage interest..."

For the first 16 weeks of the claim half the mortgage interest is paid; thereafter it can be paid in full. Furthermore, help may be given on interest arrears built up over the 16 weeks.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN CROW,
220 Bromham Road, Bedford.
November 19.

From Mrs M. Fox

Sir, Nona Byrne says that a family is eligible for full housing benefit immediately the tenants become unemployed. In fact, landlords may have to wait between eight and 16 weeks for the rent which in the first instance is paid direct to the tenant. This often results in the tenant casting the Giro and departing, forgetting to pay the landlord any rent due.

Housing benefit does not have to be used for rent. This leaves the landlord in the unenviable position of not only having no rent, but frequently having to pay gas, electricity and telephone bills.

Yours faithfully,
M. FOX,
Director, Phone-a-Flat Ltd.,
27 Gresswell Street, SW6.
November 25.

Authority which now occupies them.

As to Blechley's historic value, I would suggest that it will always be acknowledged as having housed what was arguably the most important weapon possessed by the Allies, especially in the early days of the war. The original site is almost intact, and to walk into the park today is to go back 50 years.

Current DoE plans are to sell the site, possibly as early as March, for redevelopment into a housing estate. This will entail demolishing every building except the Victorian Gothic house itself.

The DoE has given the society (50 members; annual subscription £5) until March to dismantle the three wooden huts for re-erection elsewhere. They are aware that in 1985

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, It is preposterous that the media continue to give any moral credence whatsoever to the claims of the Serbian military as they ravage the territory of a neighbour.

It is preposterous that their convenient charge that the Croats are Nazis by history is somehow used to cloak the thoroughly Hitlerian ambitions of Milosevic, the creation of a greater Serbia under pretext of the protection of Croatian Serbs mirroring Hitler's creation of a greater Germany under pretext of the protection of Sudetan Germans.

It is preposterous that Lord Carrington should have imitated Neville Chamberlain, flying impetuously to Belgrade as to Munich, while allowing the Serbian army the time it needs to achieve an irreversible fait accompli.

It is preposterous to insist that a ceasefire hold before outside intervention take place when it is manifest that it will not and that it is not in the interests of Serbia that it should.

Finally, it is preposterous that Europe, more united, less threatened than at any time in its modern history, should stand by while this daily barbarism continues, effected by the last petty dictator and communist army within the continent.

The debate over Maastricht becomes, in the light of Vucovar and Osijek, a macabre charade.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
The University of Leeds,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.

published a full report on progress during the first year by the government as a whole. The document, *This Common Inheritance — The First Year Report*, sets new standards of openness and accountability in the delivery of government policies. Again, I believe this is unique in the world.

We will demonstrate the same commitment to open environmental reporting and accountability in the 1992 reports currently in preparation. The Green Alliance is right to draw attention to the importance of these reports, but I think it is unwarranted and hasty to call into question the credibility of our whole policy simply because our first effort on one of many initiatives was not as perfect as Green Alliance would wish.

The fact remains that Britain has taken a clear lead in giving practical expression to the commitment to integrate environment with other areas of policy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIPPIER,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1.
November 25.

Tax and the NHS

From the Editor of The Health Service Journal

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt (article, November 20) understates the public's readiness to pay extra tax to support the National Health Service by quoting selectively from the opinion poll commissioned by The Health Service Journal and the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts. While 14 per cent were willing to pay only an additional £50 a year, another 28 per cent were happy to pay more than this. In all, 42 per cent said they would accept a tax increase if the revenue were to go to the NHS, 44 per cent did not wish to pay any extra and 14 per cent were undecided.

Yours faithfully,
ROB MACLACHLAN,
Editor, *The Health Service Journal*,
4 Little Essex Street, WC2.

Ever so humble

From Professor H. C. Higgins

Sir, Remarking on the high incidence of prime ministers that have emanated from Christ Church, Oxford (Weekend, November 23), Alan Hamilton concludes "But don't be misled into thinking that every undergraduate who strolls by is a future prime minister, they're drawn from humbler schools these days".

The undergraduates? Or the prime ministers?

Yours humble servant,
H. C. HIGGINS,
Court Cottage, The Green,
Hampton Court Road,
East Molesey, Surrey.

the Imperial War Museum balked at the cost of £52,500 for one hut alone to be dismantled and re-erected at Duxford.

The DoE owns most of Blechley Park, and it is not permissible to apply for planning permission on all or part of a site on Crown land. They are also judge and jury on a listing request on property they own. We have not been able to move them, despite a petition to the prime minister on our behalf by over 100 of Blechley's wartime staff.

What more can we do to convince the DoE that Blechley Park really is much more than a valuable redevelopment site in a prime position?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
P. J. WESTCOMBE,
Blechley Archaeological & Historical Society,
60 Rickley Lane,
Blechley, Buckinghamshire.
November 17.

British policy on visas for Poles

From Baroness Park of Monmouth

Sir, The prime minister, speaking in the House of Commons on his return from the Nato summit, said: "Henceforth Nato will not just be keeping the peace: it will be actively promoting peace. It will be prepared to help the countries of Eastern Europe in planning defence forces in a democracy... The relationship may well develop still further... and, again, 'Nato is now reaching out to the countries of Eastern Europe to help to provide stability and a sense of security... Britain will have a central part in that task'."

This is admirable and heartening. How can it be reconciled, however, with our present policy on visas for Poland, one of those very countries to whom we are reaching out? The Czechs, the Hungarians and now the Lithuanians may enter this country without a visa and so, by virtue of their new EC status, may the former citizens of East Germany.

The Poles, who fought bravely on our side throughout the last war and who have subsequently saved themselves from communism largely by their own exertions, may not. They were our allies; the Hungarians and the Germans fought against us.

We are told that great numbers of Poles apply for visas. This is not surprising since many will wish to visit the Poles, now ageing, who had to stay here after the last war when to return home having fought on our side meant death or deportation to the USSR. Many too have invitations to universities and other institutions. Today Poland is a free country, anxious to establish fruitful commercial, academic and scientific links with us, as with the West generally.

We are, I submit, going the right way to destroy all prospect of the fruitful relations which ought to exist between our two countries, and which are meanwhile being established with energy by the other countries of the Community. I have every confidence, however, that Her Majesty's government can be persuaded before it is too late, to abandon this sterile policy in favour of the positive approach exemplified by the prime minister.

Yours faithfully,
PARK OF MONMOUTH,
House of Lords.

Independent Ulster

From Earl Russell

Sir, Your correspondents, Mr Toop and Captain Torrens-Spence (November 22), are of course quite right about the difficulties of an independent Ulster. However, it has been recognised by statesmen of all parties since 1969 that the case for British presence in Northern Ireland is dependent on British government neutrality between the Protestant and Catholic communities.

If, as Conservatives sometimes suggest, they were to enter into coalition with the Ulster Unionists in a hung parliament, any such claim to British government neutrality would be destroyed. Under these circumstances the next non-Conservative government might find proposals for the independence of Ulster very hard to resist.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords.
November 22.

From Mr Michael Stouton

Sir, For years it has been apparent to me that parliamentary opinion is lagging well behind public opinion over Northern Ireland.

All political parties and bodies of opinion would concentrate their minds quite wonderfully in the knowledge that British troops would depart within a year, to be replaced by a UN force (Mr Humphry Berkeley's letter, November 15).

Contrary to the belief of many English people, the Republic of Ireland has no wish to become too involved with the North. Life for them is complicated enough without adding the problems of Ulster. Without cause and without support terrorists, both Republican and "Loyalist", would soon enough wither on the bough. I, for one, fervently hope and pray that Mr Berkeley's formula for peace in Northern Ireland will receive unstinted support from the people of Northern Ireland, and from the citizens of this country.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STOUTON,
The Old Rectory, Great Rollright,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Westward ho?

From Mrs A. Kenney-Herbert

Sir, I cannot understand the logic behind the District Line map as used by London Transport in its rolling stock serving that branch of the Underground. Upminster appears on the left of the map and Richmond and Ealing Broadway on the right.

Not only does this defy all geographic conventions but it is at variance with the main London Underground map that appears in the back of diaries. Why not go for broke and print that main map upside down in future? It could scarcely cause less confusion.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KENNEY-HERBERT,
The Pophams, Rolstone,
Nr Hewish,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.
November 26.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 26: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, presented the Fellowship of Engineering's MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Later His Royal Highness, President of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, presented the prizes to the winners of the ESU English Language Competitions.

His Royal Highness then chaired a meeting of the English Language Committee at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, held a reception at Buckingham Palace this evening.

Later, His Royal Highness, President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, attended a dinner for the Trustees of the Foundation for Sport and the Arts at Moet & Chandon (London) Ltd, Grosvenor Crescent, London.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 26: The Duchess of York this morning visited Surrey and was received by Major James More-Molyneux, (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey).

Her Royal Highness visited the Marie Curie Cancer Centre in Caterham, Surrey.

The Duchess of York, Patron of the Dulwich Picture Gallery this evening opened the "Palaces of Art" Exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, London.

Mrs Harry Contrell was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 26: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this morning attended a seminar on "Public Health and Children" at the Institute of Child Health, 30, Guilford Street, London.

Her Royal Highness, President, Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, later attended the 11th Annual General Meeting at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London.

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Spinal Injuries Association, held a reception this evening at Buckingham Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 26: General Sir John Akehurst today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment.

Major-General Patrick Stone also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this afternoon at a Reception given by the British Orthopaedic Association at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Her Majesty was subsequently present at a Reception at St James's Palace given to mark the 80th Anniversary of Youth Clubs UK.

The Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Ruth, Lady Fermoy as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 26: The Prince of Wales today received members of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

His Royal Highness received Mr Martin Shaw (Director of Planning, Norfolk County Council).

The Prince of Wales later held a reception on behalf of the Appeal for the Priory and Parish Church of St Margaret, King's Lynn.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Park Lane Fair in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops at the Park Lane Hotel, London W1.

Lady Aird was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 26: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President, Ladies Guild of St John Ophrahmic Hospital, this evening attended a performance by the Pavilion Opera in aid of "Gift of Sight" at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester today visited North Wales and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Clwyd (Sir William Gladstone Bt).

In the morning His Royal Highness visited the Resources Centre for the Disabled, Glan Clwyd, Beddymen.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester opened the New Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl and subsequently opened the new headquarters of Rhuddall Borough Council, Russell House, Rhyl.

Later His Royal Highness opened Deeside Enterprise Centre, Shotton.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 26: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning opened the Confederation of Shipbuilding Industries' Conference "Germany - Opportunities in the United Kingdom's Biggest Market" at Centre Point, New Oxford Street, London WC1.

His Royal Highness later visited the Thames Magistrates' Court, 55 Bow Road, London E3. Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE
November 26: Princess Alexandra today visited Buckingham Palace and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Fremantle, RN).

Her Royal Highness opened the Wildlife Teaching Hospital, Haddenham, Aylesbury.

Princess Alexandra later opened the Aylesbury Vale Maternity Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

This evening Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy attended a Dinner at the Garrick Club, London WC2.

Rear Admiral Sir John Garner was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr H. Gee
and Miss A.J. Howes
The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Gee, of La Massana, Andorra, and Pamela Ann, daughter of Major and Mrs Richard Howes, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

Mr C.R. Hewitt
and Miss A.J. Roome
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of the late Mr Dennis Hewitt and of Mrs Hewitt, of Lynham, Oxfordshire, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Roome, of Boldre, Hampshire.

Mr T.A.W. Huntley
and Miss M.E. Blackman
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Huntley, of Saldean, Sussex, and Michelle, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Blackman, of Rottingdean, Sussex.

Mr S.A. Martin
and Miss J.E. Mitchell
The engagement is announced between Stuart, eldest son of Mr John Martin and of the late Mrs Shirley Martin, of Redhill, Nuffingham, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Mitchell, of Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr L. Niel Mee
and Miss E. Beth
The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of Mr Anthony Niel Mee and of the late Mrs Anthony Niel Mee, of Woodcroft, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Sir John Beth and of the late Lady Beth, of Dean Farm House, Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr T.J.E. Somerville
and Miss J.C. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Todd, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Somerville, of Timaru, New Zealand, and Julia, only daughter of Mrs I. Thompson, of Westbridge, Surrey, and the late Mr H.C. Thompson.

Mr R.D. Williams
and Miss H.D. Seddon
The engagement is announced between Richard Duncan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Williams, of Oxford, and Helen Dorothy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Seddon, of Chester.

Marriages

Brigadier F. Grant
and Mrs K.A. Masterton
The marriage of Francis Grant and Kathryn Aimee Masterton took place on November 25, at Weston-super-Mare.

Mr K. Gundie
and Miss D. Green
The marriage took place on Sunday, November 24, at Bevis Marks Synagogue, London, of Mr Kevin Gundie, son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Gundie, to Miss Deborah Green, daughter of Mr Martin Green and Mrs Gillian Green. The Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Lord Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy officiated.

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OBITUARIES

LORD MOYNIHAN

Lord Moynihan, former bongo-playing playboy and Liberal peer who fled from Britain in 1969, died from a brain haemorrhage in Manila on November 24 aged 55. He was born on February 2, 1936.

ANTONY Patrick Andrew Cairnes Berkeley Moynihan, 3rd Baron, was a gossip column celebrity of some renown before leaving England suddenly 22 years ago rather than face fraud charges in court. At the subsequent trial of his associates he was described as "the evil genius" behind a series of frauds carried out through bogus companies including airline ticket swindles and the use of worthless cheques to pay for expensive dinner parties at luxury restaurants and the purchase of a Rolls-Royce.

After a spell in Spain, he settled in the Philippines where he ran a chain of massage parlours and strip-clubs using the family crest to publicise the services provided. He also wrote a weekly gossip column under a pen name for a weekly Manila magazine. An Australian Royal Commission into drug smuggling described him, in 1980, as being a "shadowy figure" involved with Sydney's so-called "Double Bay Mob" in the export of heroin from Manila to Australia. Although he denied this he was certainly involved in an extensive marijuana peddling ring, double-crossing his associates and becoming an informer for the United States Justice Department.

In return for immunity from prosecution he gave evidence at the trial in the US in 1988 of the ringleader, Howard Marks, an Oxford graduate, who was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

Moynihan's grandfather, Sir Berkeley Moynihan, had been an eminent surgeon who introduced surgical drugs to Britain and was created a baronet by Lloyd George and then a peer in 1929. His son, Patrick Moynihan, the second lord, was a barrister and stockbroker who served as chairman of the Liberal Party executive from 1949 to 1950. Moynihan, the third lord, was educated at Stowe and served as a second lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards during his national service. He first came to public attention when his father packed him off to Australia in 1956 to work on a sheep farm after police broke up what was described in the popular papers of the time as a "rock 'n' roll" party which culminated in bottles of champagne being thrown into a Mayfair street at 5 o'clock in the morning. It later emerged that, a year earlier, he had secretly married a blonde nude model who had taken out a summons against him for assault.

He fitted the popular 1950s perception of a "Champagne Charlie" and tales of his night-club exploits were regularly recycled in the popular papers of the period.

Although his musical abilities were uncertain, he was usually described as a bongo-playing playboy and was for a time manager of a night club in Soho. The nude model divorced him in 1958 and in December that year, in Tangier, he married Shirin Berry, a Malaysian-born belly-dancer and fire-eater. After succeeding to the title in 1965 Moynihan earned a living as an agent for cabaret artists and was occasionally active in the House of Lords, making speeches in favour of the nationalisation of gambling casinos, greater aid for the British film industry, and giving Gibraltar

tar to the Spanish.

In 1968 he married Luthgarda dela Rosa, a niece of the Philippines ambassador to Cambodia, and after a brief spell attempting to run a nightclub in Ibiza, managed a coffee bar in Beckenham. He fled to Spain in 1969 as police began investigating his business activities. He had already appeared in the dock on charges of stealing bedsheets from the furnished flat he was renting but had been found not guilty. This time the charges were more serious and in a statement, issued once he was safely out of reach of the British law, he said he had no intention of returning to Britain because the allegations of fraud made against him were "a personal vendetta" by the police.

Taking advantage of his wife's connections, and the fact that at that time there was no extradition treaty between Britain and the Philippines, Moynihan settled in Manila. He appeared to have good relations with President Marcos's administration and was soon involved in the city's nightlife, running a girls bar called The Yellow Brick Road in the Ermita district. After the ousting of Marcos however, Filipino newspapers and the authorities began investigating his underworld activities.

Giving evidence at the trial of Howard Marks in Miami in 1989, Moynihan claimed he had worked for the Australians in the Philippines since 1980, reporting regularly to a police contact at their embassy, supplying intelligence on a notorious drug-dealer named Joe Smith who once flung \$50,000 in cash

at him suggesting they go into business. Little credence was given to such claims. He admitted on another occasion: "I know I'm a cheat, liar, thief and scoundrel."

He maintained in the Miami court that he had played a dangerous double game inside Marks's \$1 billion smuggling empire, gathering information while posing as a middle-man in various drug deals. He had certainly secretly tape-recorded his dealings with Marks, in return for promises from the US Drug Enforcement Agency of immunity from prosecution.

After Marks had been found guilty Moynihan nursed the hope that his efforts on behalf of the law might have improved his chances of returning to Britain and of reclaiming his seat in the House of Lords. His hopes were in vain however.

Moynihan had one daughter by his second wife and three by his third wife. He married for a fourth time, in 1981, to another Filipino, Editha Eduardo; the couple had a son, Andrew Antony Joseph Berkeley in March 1989 before divorcing later the same year. According to a death notice placed in *The Times* in June 1990, the child - Moynihan's heir - died at the age of 15 months but in June this year the boy was said by newspaper reporters to be alive and living with his mother who was running a massage parlour in the red-light district of Manila. Moynihan married, for the fifth time, a third Filipino called Jinna by whom, in January this year, he had a second son, Daniel.

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— 15 —

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools
1.00 The Parliament Programme 12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Sesame Street. Award-winning pre-school learning series
2.00 Faith, Hope and Clarity. In part seven of his series on the beliefs and practices of leading faith traditions, Ronald Eyre examines the place of "autism" from the perspective of two different faiths. With the Most Venerable Pandita Valligresna, a Buddhist, and Dr Zak Badawi, a Muslim (s)
2.30 Film: *Catting Zero* (1935, b/w) starring James Cagney and Pat O'Brien. Stirring aviation drama with spectacular aerial sequences and Cagney as a dare-devil, womanising pilot whose antics accidentally result in the death of a colleague. Directed by Howard Hawks
4.15 Film: *So You Want an Apartment* (1947, b/w). Slapstick comedy starring Joe McDookas as a tenant harassed by his landlord
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The *Dynasty* cast, including, via satellite, Joan Collins, talk about what they have been doing since the soap finished two years ago
5.55 *Write the Wisp*. Animated adventures set in a magical forest (r)
6.00 Kate and Allie. American comedy series
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are anarchist Ian Bone and the colourful snooker player Alex Higgins (s)
7.00 Channel 4 News with John Snow and Zennab Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Labour party politician
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s)
8.30 *Travelog* presented by Robert Elms. John Walters finds an exciting side to Brussels and Susan Mairing investigates sailing on large ships (s)
9.00 Dispatches. A disquieting report on the rise of neo-Nazis in Germany and their links with far right groups in other countries, including Britain.



Mixed memories: Christine Keeler at Wraybury (9.00pm)

9.45 *Snapshots: Christine Keeler*.
A CHOICE: The leading lady of the Profumo scandal, now a mature 48, revisits her childhood home of Wraybury on the river



Thames. Had Keeler's subsequent life not made her notorious, this recollection of her early years would be of only passing interest. As it is, the temptation to find clues to later events is irresistible. The story of her probable involvement in the death of her sister, which caused the teenage Christine to come out in spots and be taken to a psychiatrist. Just as frightening, if less easily linked to the Profumo affair, is an incident at four years old when she was saved from possible drowning by an older girl. The two became close friends and when the older girl died of leukemia, Christine, a Catholic, swore she would never believe in God again. Christine's family was so poor they did not have electricity. She still says it was one of the happiest periods of her life

00:00 *The Golden Girls*. Sparkling comedy about four Miami macons (00:30 who share the same apartment).

00:30 *S and M*. Improvised comedy series starring Tony Slattery and Mike McShane (s)

01:00 *Film: A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy* (1982)

★ **CRUCIAL:** Woody Allen's film is a homage to Shakespeare and Chekhov, not to mention Nietzsche, to the strongest extent. It is an Ingrid Bergman's *Smiles of a Summer Night*. The result, however, is still pure Allen, shot through with his crisp one-liners and melancholic humour. The setting, exquisitely portrayed through the painterly eye of cameraman Gordon Willis, is a farmhouse in upstate New York at the turn of the century. It is the country home of Allen, a stockbroker, and his wife (Mary Steenburgen). Their weekend guests are a couple (Joss Feller and Mia Farrow) who are about to be married and a second couple (Tony Roberts and Julie Hagerty). The action takes place over a single day, during which romantic complications lead to everyone changing partners. A *Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy* is a film of charm and elegance and faultlessly played.

12.55 **CRUCIAL:** With Jonathan Ross. A repeat of the programme shown at 6.30

1.05 **How Did Easter Get on to the Table?** Animation from Hungary

1.15 **Late Millennium Hunting Season.** Another Hungarian animated short. Ends at 1.25

SECRET


EUROSPORT
 1. via the Astra satellite.
 1.00pm Football: Europeans Magazine 2.00
 1.00pm Squash: Men's Teams World Championship
 1.00pm French Ending Masters 4.00
 1.00pm Wrestling: German Rally Season Review 5.00
 1.00pm Wrestling: 6.00am Benelux Sport Magazine
 1.00pm 3.30 Motor Cycling Supernews 7.00
 1.00pm Basketball 1. Troopery, Morocco 3.00 RAC Rally
 1.00pm Football: European News 9.00 Tennis 10.00
 1.00pm Football: European Cup 11.00 RAC Rally
 1.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT
 1. via the Astra satellite.
 1.00pm Eurosport 7.30 Lombard RAC Rally
 1.00pm Highlights 10.00 Spanish Football Highlights
 1.00am Euro Grand Prix Show Jumping 9.30

Championship 5.00 Supernews 6.00 US College Football 7.00 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 7.30 Motor, Grand Prix, 1.00 Euro Cup, Manti Lynch Shootout 10.00 Johnnie Walker Golf Report 10.10 Lombard RAC Rally Highlights 10.40 Winter Sportsweek - Olympics 22.11.10 The Best of US Bowling

LIFESTYLE
 1. via the Astra satellite.
 10.00am The Great American Getawayshow
 10.00m Hollywood Break 10.55 Everyday World-out 11.25 Fashion Fix 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm What's New 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.20 A Week in the Life of... 1.45 Attention Cinema: The Bird of Paradise 3.50 The Break 4.00 Dick Van Dyke 4.30 The Great American Getawayshow 5.25 Lifestyle of the Rich and Famous 6.00 The Sale-Value Shopping Programme 10.00 Lifestyle Jubilee.

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo :
8.00am Showings, incl 8.40



DONKEYS

This poor little donkey is being forced to pull more than three times his own body weight.

Without the proper harness, the pressure on his neck is almost unbearable.

He will pull this load day in and day out, in misery, until he dies.

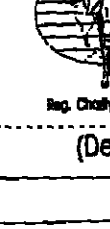
The IDPT is working in many Third World countries treating neglected donkeys and showing their impoverished owners how to look after them properly.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM

Please send donations to:

The International Donkey Protection Trust,
(Dept T222), Sidmouth,
Devon EX10 0NU
Tel (0395) 578222

Enquiries to Mrs E.D. Svendsen, M.B.E.



Reg. Charity No. 274810
(Dept T222)

☐ I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £ _____

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____


Post Code _____

A black and white photograph of a cow standing in a field, with a barn visible in the background. The cow is facing right, and the barn has a sign that reads "Barn". The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost solarized appearance.


This poor little donkey is being forced to pull more than three times his own body weight. Without the proper harness, the pressure on his neck is almost unbearable. He will pull this load day in and day out, in misery, until he dies. The IDPT is working in many Third World countries treating neglected donkeys and showing their impoverished owners how to look after them properly.

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Reg. Charity No. 271110



I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £ _____ (Dept T22)

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Hurd rules out Croatia troops

By MICHAEL EVANS
AND ANNE McELVOY

THE government has ruled out the deployment of British combat troops to Yugoslavia as part of any United Nations peacekeeping force, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

His announcement followed a recommendation by the Ministry of Defence to restrict Britain's contribution to logistics and naval support. Defence ministry sources said that sending highly-trained combat units to Yugoslavia would "make the situation there more complicated".

Mr Hurd's announcement came as the 14th ceasefire in the Yugoslav conflict was broadly respected yesterday. A cessation in hostilities is the basic condition set for any intervention by the UN, whose special envoy, Cyrus Vance, is to return to Yugoslavia within the next few days to monitor the ceasefire.

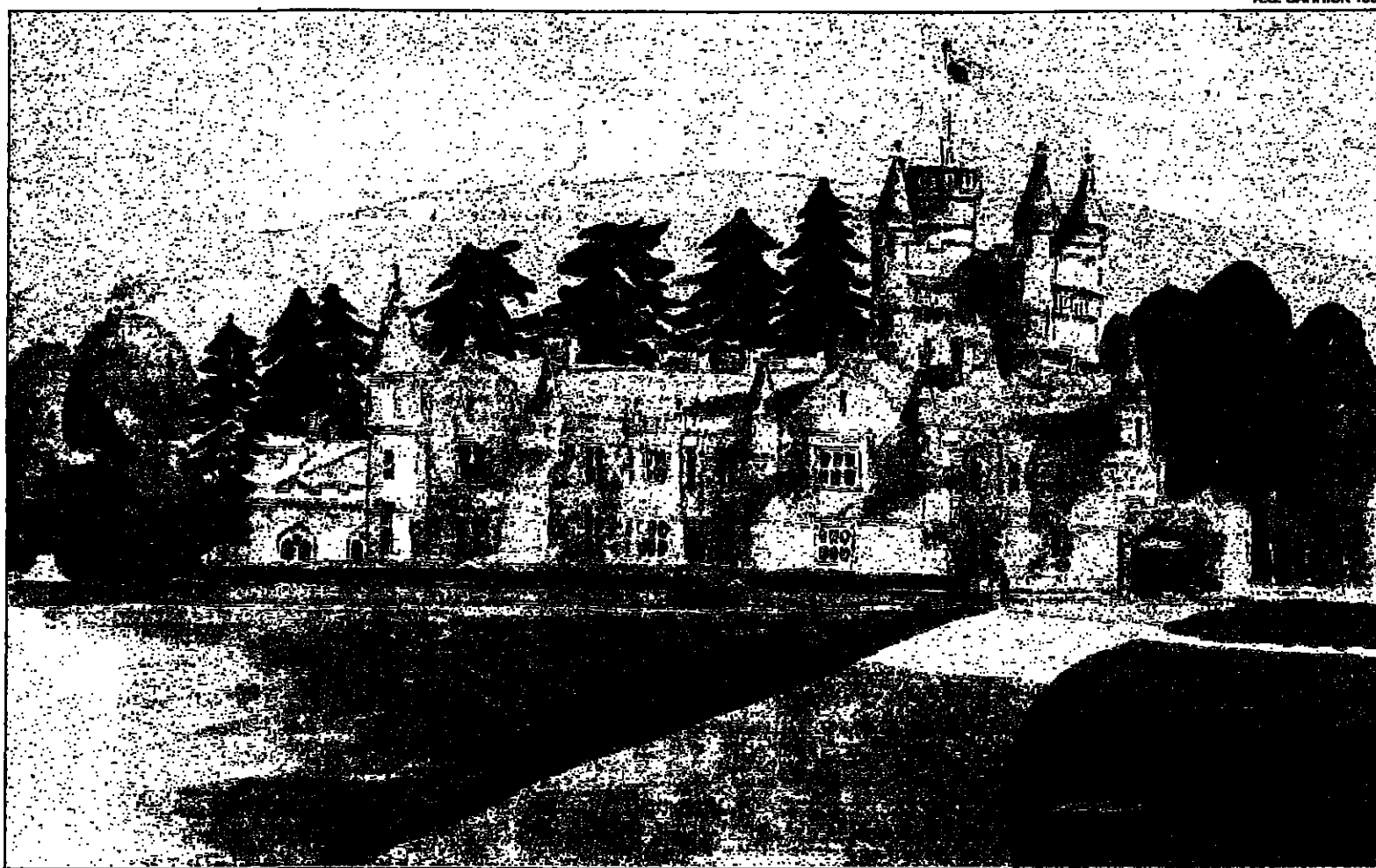
There were occasional breaches yesterday with the city of Osijek, the main target of Yugoslav federal army assaults in the past few days, coming under sporadic shell-fire. However, residents were able to leave their underground shelters for the first time since the weekend.

In announcing Britain's position on a peacekeeping force, Mr Hurd dismissed Margaret Thatcher's call last Friday for the government to recognise the independence of the Croatian republic and to arm its forces fighting the Serb-dominated Yugoslav federal army. In a radio broadcast, Mr Hurd said: "I don't think arming either side is at all a good idea. There is now, rightly, a mandatory UN arms embargo on Yugoslavia as a whole."

Mrs Thatcher's call to recognise Yugoslavia's break-away republics was a more difficult issue. It was not clear whether it would help or hinder peace, he said.

In Zagreb Zvonimir Separovic, the foreign minister, said he had received a "firm promise" of German recognition for Croatia and called on the rest of the European Community to follow suit. "Serbia can play football under the Red Star banner if it wishes but the world knows that Yugoslavia no longer exists," he said.

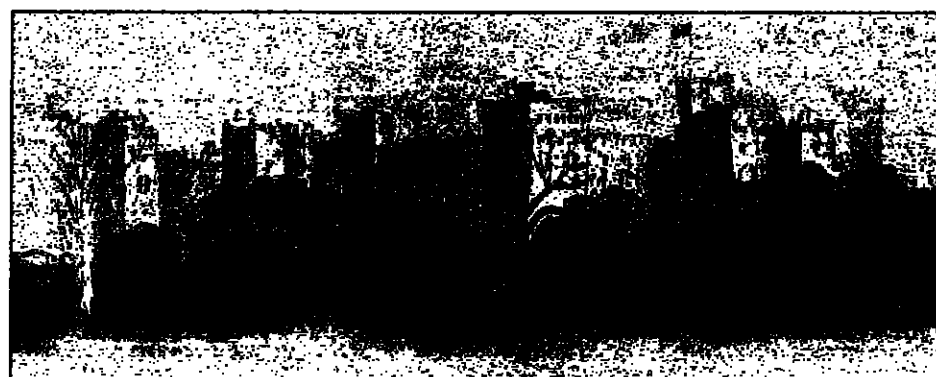
Croatia crippled, page 12
Roger Boyes, page 18
Letters, page 19



Royal artistry: the prince's lithographs of Balmoral, above, and Windsor Castle. The works feature in his first one-man show in America.



Time to paint: the Prince of Wales enjoying one of his favourite leisure activities



Prince puts on one-man show

By ALAN HAMILTON

ART lovers, both the critical and the merely rich, have responded with enthusiasm to an exhibition of contemporary British watercolours that opened this week at a gallery in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Such is the marketing power, brand image — and, of course, talent — of the Prince of Wales that the opening day of his first American one-man show drew a record attendance to the Norton Gallery in the heart of the American blue-ribbon belt, and resulted in the sale of five of his signed, limited-edition lithographs at the equivalent of £2,600 each.

The exhibition includes a new lithograph by the prince of Balmoral Castle, which also became available in Brit-

ain this week, and nine recently completed watercolours which have not yet been seen in Britain. Dr Christina Orr-Cahall, the gallery director, writes glowingly in the catalogue that the prince's work typifies what is best in a English picturesque landscape tradition established by such masters as Constable and Turner.

Susan Gottlieb, the gallery's public relations director, said yesterday: "We think the work is quite fine. In the new paintings we can see a heightening of the mastery of technique."

When the prince allowed his paintings to be exhibited for the first time last year, in aid of the Salisbury Cathedral

Political sketch

Dreaming of a better world

"LOADARUBBISH!"
"Geddon!"
"Gyerrrr! Oooosargh!"
"And... do summat abahrrr!"

"Wood Wood Whoocerrr!"
Frank Haynes (Lab) was in good mood. Starring in his favourite role, Nasty Old Git from Ashfield, he was berating a minister, egged on by roars of support from the Tory benches. They know Frank's only playing.

The Commons unwritten dress code requires Haynes to wear a suit, but as (from my perch) I cannot see him, it is easy to imagine the old boy in a string vest, chasing a blue-rosetted Tory down the council flat steps and pelting him with lumps of coal. "Or I'll kick his backside!"

"Grrr! Hyar hyar! Wood!"
The House was gawping. This was employment questions and PM's questions were minutes away. Just as a soprano needs to yodel, trill, and run up and down the scales before the opera curtain rises, so the parliamentary chorus needs to flimber up before the day's big yell. Frank Haynes was acting as cheerleader, belting out the vocal exercises.

"Give us hyar!"
"Hyar!"
"Give us a hyar hyar!"
"Hyar hyar hyar!"

"Two, four, six, eight, Who do we all love to hate?"
"You!" "Neill!" "Grrr!"
"3.15 lads. Go for it!"

"I refer my hon friend to the answer I gave some moments ago."

"Whoooo-aarrh!" They were off. It was ear-splitting.

But on the government front bench someone very prominent. Half in this world, half in another, he seemed to recall that this was an anniversary. Was it not a year ago to the day that the deed was done? She had been ambushed. The votes of Tory MPs had been counted and — yes — he was leader. Nobody thought it would happen, but it had.

At first there had been bitterness. Her friends had been unwilling to forgive him for supplanting her. He had tried to explain and, in time, they had accepted him. As environment secretary he had appointed his closest rival a shrewd move. The poor fellow had struggled for a year with the tedious intricacies of local government finance and was now well-kept and buried in his thankless task. Meanwhile, the PM was having fun... Robert Hughes (Lab, Aberdeen N) was on his feet.

Something about "Mrs Thatcher making a comeback". What rubbish! He disposed of this with an easy swipe: "She supported me in the division lobby."

"Hyar hyar!"
Now Neil Kinnock rose to take a swing. Tory unity, he said, was "hollow".

"Whoooo!" shouted the Tories. Another own goal by Kinnock — his own party were even more divided. The PM had the voting figures at his fingertips. He gave them a thumbs up.

"Hooray!" A year gone and the thrill was still strong.

Dear old Sir John Stokes (Halesowen & Stourbridge) was on his feet. "It's the first time I've questioned my right hon friend, and I'm going to enjoy it," he said. The famous empire loyalist and British heritage, Pitt the Younger, and "the EEC" all into one big helpful question: a sort of *bon voyage* (but Sir John would never use the lingo of Johnny Frenchman in this hallowed place) for Maastricht. The PM's reply was gracious.

Next came Labour's Tom Cox with a question about Cyprus — his manner, as ever, that of a permanently enraged greenhorn. Something or other, it wasn't quite clear what, was the flipping limit. The PM was ready. He read a prepared foreign office brief with accustomed ease.

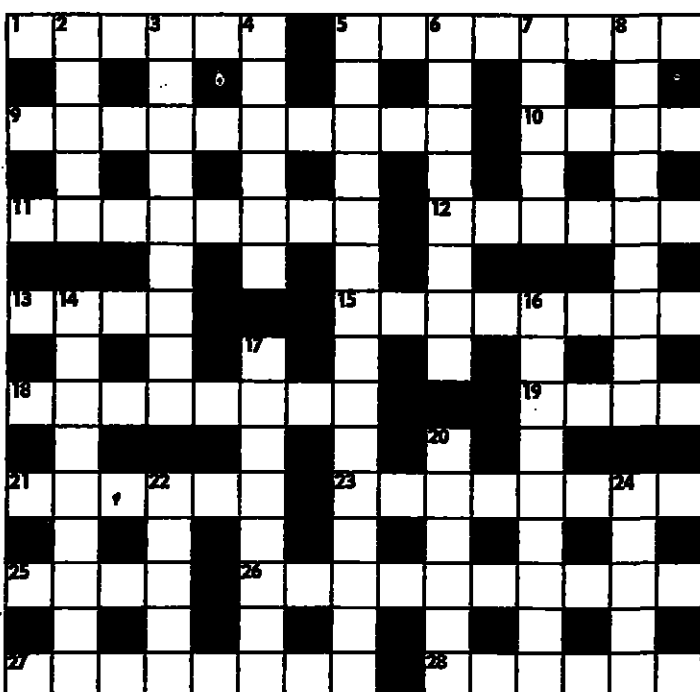
What fun it all was! Soon it would be home to Number 10. His wife was redecorating the place. Ann had dreamed of this for years... And — hah! — John could stay behind and plough through the "Local Authority Finance (England) 1992-93 Statement by Michael" — with a start, Michael Heseltine woke up.

He was environment secretary. He was on his feet. He was speaking. "As I announced on 6 November, the business rate multiplier next year will be 40.2 pence, in line with the annual increase in the RPI of 4.1 per cent..." All around MPs rushed for the doors. From the press gallery above, the sound of a hundred reporters dropping their pencils was like a distant avalanche... "If its budget is 30 per cent or less over SSA..."

It was 12 months to the day since Mr Heseltine had not become prime minister. At the door he could just see a retreating flash of grey, like a rabbit's tail. The prime minister was leaving.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,774



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- TALANOA**
a. Idle chit-chat
b. A maiden's rite of passage
c. A prophetic idiot
EXIES
a. Half-term at Wycombe Abbey
b. Journalist's travel expenses
c. A fit of hysterics, the ague, etc.
VERECUND
a. Unco easy
b. An apprentice writer to the Signet
c. Modest
ISOCHOR
a. Cautious half of the Tragic chorus
b. A variable curve
c. A carnivorous lizard.

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH
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London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

DOWN

1. Description of The Ring, seen by means of a link-up (5).
2. Rather unusual, during squeeze, to obtain floor covering (9).
3. Point raised by everybody in trains? Indeed (6).
4. Moving a rich chap to it, it was taken by doctors once (11,4).
5. Investigative study concerning south-eastern chief (8).
6. Put to sea about noon, being a slow mover (5).
7. A complex network designed, it's said, to cause bewilderment (9).
8. Play not finished at Sunningdale's last hole (9).
9. Type of gemstone the Bruce clan distributed (9).
10. Game presumably played according to this code (8).
11. Woman you and I caught eating (6).
12. Wood for sower's drill, say (5).
13. Part of tree topped at the farm (5).

Concise Crossword, page 22

THE LAST WORD
IN CIGARS

CHAMBORD

COMPLIMENTS OF HENRI WINTERMANS

Cloud and drizzle over southern England and southern Wales, with fog patches, before many parts, except western coasts, become brighter by afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will be dry with bright intervals in sheltered eastern areas. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright intervals after fog, but rain will spread from the west by evening; the north and west will be windy. Outlook: rain spreading from the west; then, brighter and showery.

ABERDEEN
MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 2-dtizzle; 3-fog; 4-sun; 5-dtizzle; 6-sun; 7-fog; 8-sun; 9-dtizzle; 10-sun; 11-fog; 12-sun.

Alto	C	F	M	C	F	M	C	F	M
Alto	18	64	18	64	18	64	18	64	18
Alto	21	70	21	70	21	70	21	70	21
Alto	23	73	23	73	23	73	23	73	23
Alto	25	75	25	75	25	75	25	75	25
Alto	27	77	27	77	27	77	27	77	27
Alto	29	79	29	79	29	79	29	79	29
Alto	31	81	31	81	31	81	31	81	31
Alto	33	83	33	83	33	83	33	83	33
Alto	35	85	35	85	35	85	35	85	35
Alto	37	87	37	87	37	87	37	87	37
Alto	39	89	39	89	39	89	39	89	39
Alto	41	91	41	91	41	91	41	91	41
Alto	43	93	43	93	43	93	43	93	43
Alto	45	95	45	95	45	95	45	95	45
Alto	47	97	47	97	47	97	47	97	47
Alto	49	99	49	99	49	99	49	99	49
Alto	51	101	51	101	51	101	51	101	51
Alto	53	103	53	103	53	103	53	103	53
Alto	55	105	55	105	55	105	55	105	55
Alto	57	107	57	107	57	107	57	107	57
Alto	59	109	59	109	59	109	59	109	59
Alto	61	111	61	111	61	111	61	111	61
Alto	63	113	63	113	63	113	63	113	63
Alto	65	115	65	115	65	115	65	115	65
Alto	67	117	67	117	67	117	67	117	67
Alto	69	119	69	119	69	119	69	119	69
Alto	71	121	71	121	71	121	71	121	71
Alto	73	123	73	123	73	123	73	123	73
Alto	75	125	75	125	75	125	75	125	75
Alto	77	127	77	127	77	127	77	127	77
Alto	79	129	79	129	79	129	79	129	79
Alto	81	131	81	131	81	131	81	131	81
Alto	83	133	83	133	83	133	83	133	83
Alto	85	135	85	135	85	135	85	135	85
Alto	87	137	87	137	87	137	87	137	87
Alto	89	139	89	139	89	139	89	139	89
Alto	91	141	91	141	91	141	91	141	91
Alto	93	143	93	143	93	143	93	143	93
Alto	95	145	95	145	95	145	95	145	95
Alto	97	147	97	147	97	147	97	147	97
Alto	99	149	99	149	99	149	99	149	99
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Alto	103	153	103	153	103	153	103	153	103
Alto	105	155	105	155	105	155	105	155	105
Alto	107	157	107	157	107	157	107	157	107
Alto	109	159	109	159	109	159	109	159	109
Alto	111	161	111	161	111	161	111	161	111
Alto	113	163	113	163	113	163	113	163	113
Alto	115	165	115	165	115	165	115	165	115
Alto	117	167	117	167	117	167	117	167	117
Alto	119	169	119	169	119	169	119	169	119
Alto	121	171	121	171	121	171	121	171	121
Alto	123	173	123	173	123	173	123	173	123
Alto	125	175	125	175	125	175	125	175	125
Alto	127	177	127	177	127	177	127	177	127
Alto	129	179	129	179	129	179	129	179	129
Alto	131	181	131	181	131	181	131	181	131
Alto	133	183	133	183	133	183	133	183	133
Alto	135	185	135	185	135	185	135	185	135
Alto	137	187	137	187	137	187	137	187	137
Alto	139	189	139	189	139	189	139	189	139
Alto	141	191	141	191	141	191	141	191	141
Alto	143	193	143	193	143	193	143	193	143
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Alto	147	197	147	197	147	197	147	197	147
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Alto	151	201	151	201	151	201	151	201	151
Alto	153	203	153	203	153	203	153	203	153
Alto	155	205	155	205	155	205	155	205	155
Alto	157	207	157	207	157	207	157	207	157
Alto	159	209	159	209	159	209	159	209	159
Alto	161	211	161	211	161	211	161	211	161
Alto	163	213	163	213	163	213	163	213	163
Alto	165	215	165	215	165	215	165	215	165
Alto	167	217	167	217	167	217	167	217	167
Alto	169	219	169	219	169	219	169	219	169
Alto	171	221	171	221	171	221	171	221	171
Alto	173	223	173	223	173	223	173	223	173
Alto	175	225	175	225	175	225	175	225	175
Alto	177	227	177	227	177	227	177	227	177
Alto	179	229	179	229	179	229	179	229	179
Alto	181	231	181	231	181	231	181	231	181
Alto	183	233	183	233	183	233	183	233	183
Alto	185	235	185	235	185	235	185	235	185
Alto	187	237	187	237	187	237	187	237	187
Alto	189	239	189	239	189	239	189	239	189
Alto	191	241	191	241	191	241	191	241	191

TODAY IN
BUSINESS

RIGHTS



Norman Willis suggests the Maastricht summit may fail because Britain cannot agree with the rest of Europe on workers' rights
Page 29

ATLANTIC CROSSING

Control of Jaguar, a grand old name of British industry, was handed over by Ford of Britain, to executives at the American car company's Detroit headquarters
Page 27

POWER CUTS



John Baker, of National Power, said a further 3,000 jobs were likely to be shed during the next 12 months as National Power strove to cut costs
Page 26

PROPERTY

In Commercial Property, Christopher Warman reports on the celebrations surrounding the biggest commercial letting success London has seen for months
Page 42

NO BIDS



Rudolph Agnew of TVS, a franchisee, has ruled out a Channel 5 bid, or participation in a consolation satellite channel
Page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7970 (-0.0005)
German mark 2.6452 (-0.0029)
Exchange index 90.5 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1887.7 (+11.4)
FT-SE 100 2471.5 (+15.3)
New York Dow Jones 2871.87 (-30.19)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23112.09 (+243.40)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month Interbank 10 1/2%
3-month sterling bills 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 7 1/2%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 4 1/4-4 3/8%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-100 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: \$1.7960
DM 2.6431
FF 162.518
Yen 230.34
CU 50.713984
ECU 1.40591
New York: \$1.7950
DM 2.6415
FF 162.518
Yen 230.34
CU 50.713984
ECU 1.40591

GOLD

London Fixing: \$387.00 pm \$386.25
Gold 386.10-386.50 (\$205.40)
New York: \$387.00
Gold 386.10-386.50 (\$205.40)

NORTH SEA OIL

Front (Dec) \$19.60 bbl (\$19.65)

RETAIL PRICES

IPI: 135.1 October (1987=100)
Donates midday trading price

Polly Peck chairman to stand down

Creditors force Nadir into bankruptcy

By ANGELA MACRAY

BESIEGED by civil litigation and criminal charges, Asil Nadir, the founder of Polly Peck International, has finally been declared bankrupt. The move by ten of his creditors will force Mr Nadir to step down as chairman of the collapsed fresh fruit, electronics and hotels group.

In a separate action yesterday, an injunction freezing £378 million of Mr Nadir's assets, obtained by Polly Peck's administrators, was continued for another three weeks by a High Court judge. Mr Justice Millett granted Mr Nadir more time to consider his intended opposition to the asset-freeze in light of the bankruptcy order, which means Mr Nadir's finances will be placed in the hands of a trustee.

Christopher Morris, the administrator dealing with Mr Nadir's personal liabilities to Polly Peck, laid claim to Polly Peck cash that was held under Mr Nadir's control. He said that he would have priority over Mr Nadir's personal unsecured creditors for money that could be traced from Polly Peck coffers to the chairman.

Mr Nadir, who is also facing 76 charges of theft and false accounting valued at £155 million, escaped personal bankruptcy in February after agreeing to repay creditors in full. The new application, which was supported by

those who applied in the first position, was made at a private hearing by Den norske Bank, which claims it is owed £1.5 million from Mr Nadir under a guarantee of loans made to Azania Investments, a Jersey company.

Den norske's application was supported by nine other creditors, including the Inland Revenue, BZW, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Carr Kitchat & Aitken, which are owed about £85 million between them. The parties decided to reactivate the bankruptcy application after alleged breaches of a High Court undertaking by Mr Nadir not to dispose of his assets. The breaches relate to the sale last December of Mr Nadir's 98 per cent stake in Impex, the Turkish bank, coupled with an option to repurchase the shares within three years.

Mr Nadir argued that the shares had been sold for the benefit of creditors and the problem centred on the buyer of the shares failing to pay the first instalment of £12 million in March.

The creditors who obtained the bankruptcy order are still trying to have Mr Nadir jailed for contempt of court over the matter. The next hearing is on December 9.

Under the provisions of the Insolvency Act, undischarged bankrupts are prevented from holding company directorships, which means that Mr Nadir must resign his position as chairman of Polly Peck. Even though all man-

agement responsibility has passed to the administrators, it was thought useful to keep Mr Nadir in the chair to reassure those running Polly Peck's businesses in the unofficial republic of northern Cyprus who have been reluctant to pass company accounts to the administrators and the Serious Fraud Office.

Since the issue of injunctions freezing £1 billion of assets belonging to Mr Nadir, his mother and other individuals and banks in northern Cyprus, this need to keep Mr Nadir has dwindled. A £73 million freeze order on the assets of Mr Nadir's mother, Safiye Nadir, was continued yesterday until full trial of the administrators' action or further order in the meantime. The orders allow Mr Nadir and his mother to make provision for legal expenses and £1,000 a week living expenses.

A £142 million freeze on the assets of the Industrial Bank of Cyprus and a £6 million freeze on the assets of Menkesh Aziz, the northern Cyprus lawyer, were also continued until a further hearing. The judge varied the order against Mr Aziz to allow him up to £100,000 a month in the ordinary course of running his legal practice.

Polly Peck was placed into administration 13 months ago with debts of £1.3 billion. An informal meeting of holders of Polly Peck's convertible bonds on Thursday will discuss how much money may become available to them.

Allied announces 1% profits rise to £289m

By MATTHEW BOND

ALLIED-LYONS, the food and drinks company, has warned shareholders that the cost of complying with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's tied estate order could reach £100 million.

Tony Hales, who became

chief executive in July, would not specify the individual components of the total, but said it reflected the costs of "reorganising and restructuring". A final figure will be included as an extraordinary item in the full-year results.

The warning came after

Allied unveiled a 1 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to September 14, to £289 million, and an agreement to sell Showers and its British wine companies to a management buyout team for £140 million.

The figures are the first from the new management team at Allied after the discovery of a £147 million loss on foreign currency dealings accelerated the already-planned departures of Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, replaced by Michael Jackman, and Richard Martin, replaced by Mr Hales.

Mr Jackman said that the new management had only been in place for two of the six months being reported on, during which trading conditions had been "distinctly difficult". Although the foreign currency debacle is now over, the cost of closing the company's trading positions has led to a £9 million increase in the interest charge. The interim dividend is increased 6 per cent to 6.65p.

Tempus, page 28
Comment, page 29



New team: Michael Jackman and Tony Hales

Mint launches coin for Europe

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Mint has unveiled the design of the new 50 pence piece to commemorate the arrival of the single European market next year. The coin is being unveiled amid signs that a long-running battle between the Mint and the high street banks over a 50p piece mountain is being resolved.

The Mint has agreed to buy back 70 million coin mountain, which weighs an estimated 945 tonnes, and store them at its 35-acre site in Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan. The old coins will gradually be used as scrap.

The banks have waged a battle to get rid of their 50p reserves for more than a year. The problem came to light two years ago as the £1 coin became more widely accept-

ed by the public and vending machine operators. Despite the resolution of the dispute, banks are unlikely to buy many of the new coins because they believe demand for 50p pieces is still falling.

"I can't believe the banks will look at this new coin with anything other than disfavour," said a spokesman for the British Bankers Association. "The 1992 50p could be something of a rarity and



eventually a collectors' item." The seven-sided 50p has never been popular with users and is being increasingly shunned. This has left the banks with an ever-growing reserves of the coins in their vaults, which now cost them an estimated £3.9 million a year in lost interest.

Until recently, the Treasury and the Mint refused to take the coins back, and told the British Bankers Association that they did not operate on a sale or return basis. The U-turn in the Mint's policy could not have come at a better time for its new commemorative coin which will come into circulation next September and continue to be minted until 1993.

If the dispute over the old coins had not been resolved, the banks could have refused to buy any of the commemorative issue and prevented it from coming into widespread circulation.

The coin features a design by Mary Milner Dickens and will commemorate both the advent of the single market and Britain's presidency of the council of ministers. The design depicts a conference table with the UK at the head while Europe's 12 capital cities are represented by stars.

The obverse will carry the Queen's head as usual. The new 50p piece is an echo of one minted in 1973 to mark Britain's entry into the European Community.

Despite their unpopularity, the Mint says it has no plans to miniaturise the 50p, which weighs 13.5 grammes, as it is doing with other coins. The 5p piece was scaled down last year, and the 10p will get the same treatment next autumn.



International mission: Birgit Breuel, the Treuhand president, yesterday

Walker to head London Treuhand

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE Treuhand, the agency in charge of east German state assets, has appointed Peter Walker, the former Welsh secretary, to head a new London office, to attract British companies to invest in eastern Germany.

With the appointment of Mr Walker, the German authorities hope to raise the Treuhand's profile among British companies, which have so far shown little enthusiasm about investing in the East. The new office will be located at the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in central London.

As Welsh secretary, Mr Walker was one of the few members of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet to gain a reputation for actively pursuing industry policy. Earlier this year, Mr Walker accepted the chair at Maxwell Communication Corporation but later refused to take up the position.

He said yesterday his new job would be to guide and advise in particular small and medium-sized British companies, as large companies were already well informed about investment opportunities in East Germany.

He said the London offices will be equipped with a database to help potential investors with details of the 6,000 remaining investment opportunities. Birgit Breuel, Treuhand president, said yesterday eastern Germany needs foreign investors "to integrate east Germany into international markets and international competition".

The Treuhand has so far privatised 4,000 companies out of total of 10,000.

Argyll cool over £100m settlement

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALISTAIR Grant, the chairman of Argyll Group, said he did not feel the £100 million settlement paid by Guinness to Argyll last week was anything to celebrate.

Speaking for the first time since the announcement, Mr Grant said: "£100 million was the least we would have accepted and it was the most Guinness would have paid. If we had wanted more we would have to have sued them and that could have taken four or five years."

Mr Grant said that while Argyll had been planning to sue Guinness for £1 billion, it was unlikely that the group would have received as much as that and legal costs could have totalled £30 million.

Argyll pleaded the City with a strong performance in the first half. Pre-tax profits in

the six months to October 12 rose 24 per cent to £178 million on sales up 9 per cent at £2.68 billion. Safeway contributed £128 million to profits. Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 12.1p and the interim dividend is up 15 per cent to 3.2p. The group had £220 million of net cash at the half-year stage, which yielded interest of £16.3 million, £15 million of which came from investing the £387 million rights issue proceeds.

One Safeway store was opened in the first half and 16 will open in the second half, taking the number of stores to 324 by March. Presto and Lo-Cost, the group's discount chain, contributed £31.4 million to profits on sales of £671 million.

Tempus, page 28

Comment, page 29

Pound pushed back by US gloom

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A SURVEY showing an unexpected plunge in American consumer confidence prompted a sharp rebound for the mark that more than wiped out gains the pound had made during the day.

Sterling had earlier advanced to a high of DM2.8590, supported by remarks from Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, and Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister, that were seen by currency dealers as favouring the dollar and the pound.

But at London's 5 pm market close, the pound was a quarter-penny weaker at DM2.8431. Against the dollar it was almost unchanged at \$1.7960, the market having retreated after testing \$1.80. On a trade-weighted basis, sterling finished 0.1 lower at 90.5. Uncertainty about Britain's economic recovery and political developments are expected to continue to weigh down sentiment for the pound.

M Bérégovoy said he saw no reason for a realignment of currencies in the exchange-rate mechanism, nor for an increase in German interest rates. Herr Möllemann, speaking at a Confederation of British Industry conference in London, said he did not expect the Bundesbank to raise key rates.

Late in the European day, news of the Conference Board survey, which showed American consumer confidence at 50.6 in November, after a revised 60.1 in October, sent the dollar a penny lower, as fears of double-dip recession were reinforced.

The consumer confidence problem was a "very serious one" and the economy needed a fiscal stimulus, Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said. He underlined that aspects of the economic recovery were different now from previous recessions.

Sweden's central bank raised overnight lending rates a percentage point. Upward pressure on interest rates abroad and a currency outflow were given as the main reasons.

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Nat Power spells out the threat from rivals

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Power, Britain's biggest electricity generator, has spelled out the challenge posed by independent power station projects. Brian Birkenhead, finance director, said the company could face "a couple of rough years after March 1993".

John Baker, chief executive, said a further 3,000 jobs were likely to be shed during the next 12 months as National Power strove to cut costs. The workforce was reduced by 1,300, to 13,200, in the half to September 30.

National Power emphasised the uncertain outlook with a cautious increase in its dividend, despite an 18 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £202 million in the first half. The dividend was raised only 9 per cent, to 3p a share. Both comparisons are based on a pro-forma statement because the company was state-owned until March, when 60 per cent of its shares were sold to institutions and the public.

Analysts suggested that the company's caution also reflected the increased likelihood of intervention by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator. Professor Littlechild has launched an enquiry into price instability in the "pool", or spot market.

Mr Baker said the first wave of independent power plants into an electricity market already oversupplied with capacity would coincide with the expiry of three-year contracts put in place by the government before privatisation.

That was to safeguard the revenues of National Power and PowerGen, its smaller sister. It was "reasonable to

assume" that 5,000 to 7,000 megawatts of independent, gas-fired power stations would be built, he said. "The high number poses significant challenges to us."

New plants on such a scale could supply more than a tenth of peak power demand in England and Wales.

Regional electricity companies are believed to be buying power at an average price of around 4.9p a unit under existing contracts. Even after a strong rise this year in the cost of bulk gas, modern combined-cycle gas plants are expected to produce power at less than 3p a unit.

National Power has closed 3,000 megawatts of older plant but Mr Baker said no further closures were planned "for at least 12 months".

National Power's sales are already being hit by increased output from the government's nuclear stations, as well as by competition from French and Scottish plants.

During the first half, the company's market share of electricity sales in England and Wales declined by 2 per cent to 43 per cent. Its share of the market for power generated from fossil fuels, however, rose from 60.2 per cent to 61 per cent.

Mr Baker rejected complaints by large energy users that pool prices were too low. "We accept a responsibility to ensure that we do not abuse our position in the market," he said. "We have not done so and we have no intention of doing so."

The number of shareholders in National Power has fallen from 1.6 million at privatisation to fewer than 900,000.



Power men: John Baker (left) and Brian Birkenhead gave warning of a couple of "rough years" ahead

Premier boosted by Wytch

By OUR CITY STAFF

DESPITE lengthy shut-downs at the Thistle and Deveron fields, Premier Consolidated, the oil and gas exploration company, lifted half-year operating profits almost 50 per cent to £7 million. Interim pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to £5.3 million.

The advance arose mainly through full production at Wytch Farm, the onshore oil field in Dorset. Output and profits would have been higher but for and extensive maintenance programme that closed the Thistle and Deveron fields for all but 6 weeks of the half year.

Operating cash flow was £11 million. Earnings were 0.78p a share, compared with 0.62p last time.

Sketchley clean-out brings back profits

By ANGELA MACKAY

EIGHTEEN months after taking control, Sketchley's management has returned the dry cleaning and textile services group to profitability after a sweeping reconstruction programme that shed all non-core businesses.

In the half year ended September 27, a £4 million pre-tax loss last year was transformed into a profit of £2.3 million. David Davies, the chairman, indicated that the board would resume dividend payments at the end of the reporting year.

Exceptional items and high interest charges eroded profits last year, however. John Richardson and Tony Bloom, joint executive deputy chairmen, have concentrated on strengthening the balance sheet and cutting costs to

reverse this slump. Mr Richardson said the two core divisions had performed well, but this was caused by improved operating performance rather than increased sales. Mr Richardson also said that management could not see any evidence of the government's optimism that the economy was improving.

Interim turnover in the continuing activities was steady at £54.7 million but profit before exceptional items and interest was twice as high.

Sales from discontinued activities, such as vending and computer distribution, amounted to £31.3 million in the previous interim period, taking total turnover to £85.8 million.

Interest charges shrank from £3.8 million to £1.5 million as gearing dropped from almost 90 per cent to 53 per cent and this is predicted to improve once again by the end of the year.

Sketchley's shares were 1p lower at 135p. However, this compares with the year's low of 65p.

Auditors' freedom backed

By GRAHAM SEARISANT

THE Financial Reporting Council is backing moves to strengthen the independence of auditors after admitting that several of the biggest recent company failures, including Polly Peck International and British & Commonwealth, were associated with "obscure financial reporting".

In his first annual report on the state of financial reporting, Sir Ron Dearing, the council's chairman, said the growth of innovative accounting practices in the Eighties, combined with the sharp rise in borrowing and outdated accounting standards had made the ensuing recession a more chastening experience.

The council has proposed to the Cadbury committee on financial aspects of corporate governance, on which Sir Ron sits, that more emphasis should be put on audit committees in order to help auditors become more independent of management.

Will to reform, page 29

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Concentric profits halve to £4.22m

FULL-YEAR profits at Concentric, the engineering and components group, more than halved after losses at the group's pumps division. Pre-tax profits plunged from £9.2 million to £4.22 million in the year to end-September, on turnover of £112.9 million (£108.5 million).

Tony Firth, the chairman, blamed the decline in profits on difficult trading conditions and losses of about £2.5 million at the Concentric Pumps subsidiary, compared with a profit of about £2 million previously. However, Mr Firth stressed that the pumps business is now "trading profitably". He added that the group was also adversely affected by redundancy and reorganisation costs, as well as its exposure to aluminium. "Aluminium has had a pretty bad run," he said. Reorganisation and capital investment had improved margins, said Mr Firth, adding: "We're expecting better things this year." The final dividend is maintained at 7.63p, making an improved total of 11.17p for the year, against 11p. Earnings per share tumbled from 28.4p to 13.21p. The shares lost 9p to 270p.

Southnews ahead

BETTER margins at Southnews, the regional newspaper publisher, helped pre-tax profits climb 19 per cent to £44,000 in the half year to end-September. Operating margins improved from 6.2 per cent to 9.1 per cent, although turnover declined from £9.04 million to £7.15 million.

Southnews, which passed its final dividend this year, is resuming payments with an interim of 0.5p (0.8p). Earnings rose to 2.13p (1.78p) a share. The shares rose 4p to 71p.

Kewill advances

A SHARP recovery in British profits helped Kewill Systems, the computer software house, lift pre-tax profits 11.4 per cent to £1.69 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose 34.8 per cent to £21.5 million.

The group's American sales rose strongly in August and September. Earnings were 13.56p (12.02p), while fully diluted earnings climbed to 12.6p (11.8p) a share. Once again, there is no interim dividend, but a full-time payout is expected.

Lasmo doubts claims

LASMO, which has made a one-for-one share offer for Ultramar, has sent the rival oil group's shareholders a circular in which it casts doubt on claims in Ultramar's main defence document, yet to be published. Under the takeover code timetable, Ultramar has until Friday to publish forward profit forecasts or fresh estimates of asset value. Thus far Lasmo has gained acceptance of its bid for 0.73 per cent of Ultramar shares. A higher second bid is expected. Ultramar shares fell 2p to 330p.

Seton nears £1.5m

SETON Healthcare Group, the medical supplies to sporting goods company, made pre-tax profits of £1.49 million (£658,000) in the half year to end-August. Turnover rose 27 per cent to £17.5 million. The interim dividend is 1.5p (0.4p), with earnings at 4.8p (3.4p) a share and fully diluted earnings of 4.7p (3.2p).

Seton is placing 1.06 million new shares at 260p each, to raise £2.7 million to finance the acquisition and development of Steripod, the pharmaceutical vials business.

Christie cuts losses

CHRISTIE Group, the specialist business agency, has cut pre-tax losses from £1.5 million to £481,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover dipped from £9.58 million to £9.3 million.

The loss per share has been trimmed from 4.64p to 1.81p. Again, there is no interim dividend.

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Control of Jaguar switches to Ford's US headquarters

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CONTROL of Jaguar, one of Britain's most famous car companies, was yesterday handed over to American executives in Detroit.

Ford of Britain disclosed that it had passed ownership of the Coventry luxury car maker, which it bought for £1.6 billion two years ago, to its headquarters in America.

The move is to ease the financial burden on Ford of Britain's finances, which showed the first losses for 20 years in 1990 with a pre-tax deficit of £274 million.

However, £66 million of the losses were attributed to Jaguar while Ford of Britain also had to fund £235 million worth of interest charges to cover the loans needed for the purchase of the company.

Ford described the change as "purely administrative" and gave an assurance that nothing would change at Jaguar with Bill Hayden, the

chairman, remaining in immediate charge of the independent subsidiary although reporting directly to the main board in America.

With Jaguar needing £1 billion worth of investment in new models in the next decade, the move was being seen as inevitable given the decline in the company's fortunes. Sales in America, Jaguar's main market, and Britain are down about 40 per cent this year and have lost £59 million in the three months to September, with little prospect of improvement.

Union leaders, who might have been expected to support control of Jaguar remaining in Britain, welcomed the transfer of power and supported claims by analysts that Ford paid too high a price for Jaguar.

Jimmy Airlie, secretary of the joint negotiating committee at Ford, said: "This is good news for Ford workers in Britain. No longer will they have to pay for a financial blunder made by Ford's world headquarters in Detroit. Jaguar has been a milestone around Ford of Britain's neck and seriously weakened overall profitability."

Although angry at the sudden move, workers at Jaguar's main Browns Lane assembly plant in Coventry discounted fears that production lines would be transferred to America. Harry Fielding, a senior production worker, said: "If Ford has paid £1.6 billion for Jaguar, the last thing they will do is close it down."

Jaguar is Britain's most famous motoring marque next to Rolls-Royce, recognisable throughout the world as the company built up by Sir William Lyons into a premier manufacturer of luxury saloons and high performance sports cars.

The company's fortunes crumbled when it lost its independence in the Seventies to become part of the state-owned BL conglomerate and by 1980 was on the verge of

bankruptcy. Sir John Egan, then a little-known motor industry manager, was appointed by Sir Michael Edwards, then BL's chairman, to rescue the business.

In his first year, production was fewer than 14,000 cars and financial losses were running at £1 million a week.

As demand for luxurious cars in America and Britain grew rapidly in the boom years of the Eighties, Jaguar revived dramatically. With profits at £91 million and production up to more than 33,000 cars, the company raised nearly £300 million at privatisation in 1984.

General Motors and Ford, America's two biggest car companies, were in fierce competition to win control of the company with its revered badge and reputation for luxurious cars for the road and winning high-performance cars on the race track. GM pulled out when Lindsey Halstead, chairman of Ford of Europe, was authorised by Detroit to offer £1.6 billion.

Within a year of the takeover, however, Jaguar was facing recession, with its traditional customers in big business forced to curb spending. Nine out of ten Jaguars are bought by companies for executives and reduced business profits forced spending cuts.

This year, more than 4,000 jobs have been shed as production has fallen to 25,000 cars, the lowest since 1982, and Ford executives are steeling themselves for further losses.

John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry South West, said last night: "It does seem like the final line bit of history passing away. What matters is that the distinctive designs of Jaguar continue to come out of Coventry and that the cars continue to be assembled in the city."

New group buys 185 Bass pubs



Mine host: Alistair Arkley, ex-Brent Walker

BASS, the drinks group, has sold 185 public houses in the north of England to Century Inns, a new company that has raised £60 million for a new brewing and drink retailing group.

Century is led by Alistair Arkley, the former managing director of Brent Walker brewing and trading. Mr Arkley joined Brent Walker in 1988 when it bought Camerons, where he was managing director of the Harlepool brewery.

The acquisition of the Bass public houses came as a surprise to the drinks sector, which had been expecting Mr Arkley to unveil the long awaited buyout of Brent Walker's Harlepool brewery.

Negotiations with Brent Walker were continuing, said Mr Arkley, but at a slow pace. "We have been trying to buy that brewery for nine months now, but Brent Walker has their own problems and I think the brewery has been pretty low on their list of priorities."

Bass said it was delighted with the Century deal, which carries a five-year, non-exclusive beer supply contract. The public houses to be sold are mainly in Durham, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Humberside.

Century plans to build a chain of 500 public houses in the North. The company is backed by Schroder Ventures, First Britannia Mezzanine and National Westminster Acquisition Finance.

Leeds absorbs Southdown society

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Leeds Permanent building society, the fifth largest, is to take over the smaller Southdown building society early next year, following five months of talks.

The merger is the first by the Leeds since it announced, last May, that it was aiming to grow by absorbing smaller societies.

The Southdown, based in Lewes, Sussex, is the 26th largest society and has 38 branches in the Southeast; it emerged as the Leeds' favoured merger target because it had branches in an area where the Leeds is not well represented. The two societies will between them have over 100 branches in the Sussex area after the merger.

Mike Blackburn, Leeds' chief executive, said: "We made a deliberate decision in May that we would only seek growth through merger. We will be increasing our branch network in a

cost-effective way with expansion in an area where business premises are expensive, even in these straitened times."

Peter Spence, Southdown's managing director, said the Southdown had decided it needed a merger with a society wanting to expand in the Southeast; it was not interested in merging with a society smaller than the Leeds in case it had to repeat the merger process in a few years' time.

There had been no pressure on the Leeds from the Building Societies Commission to rescue the Southdown, as there had been on the Woolwich to take over the Town & Country earlier this month, the societies said. The BSC also put pressure on the Bradford & Bingley to take over the Leamington Spa earlier this year, after it reported a loss—the first of several societies to do so.

Mr Spence said, however, that "a small loss was likely" at the

Southdown's year end on December 31 because of increased provision for mortgage arrears and repossessions. Provision for bad debts is likely to double from the £3.8 million set aside in 1990, Mr Spence said.

The Southdown's assets are likely to be 3 per cent less than the £783 million reported at the end of last year, following a run on the society's branches in August.

Rumours that the society was in difficulties further unnerved members of the public already worried by the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and led to the loss of 4 per cent of the society's investors.

If Southdown's members agree to the merger, its 123,000 investors will get a bonus of 1 per cent. The 19,500 borrowers will have half a percentage point knocked off their mortgage rate for six months after the merger goes through.



Unclear picture: Rudolph Agnew is looking at options for TVS's future

TVS drops to £10m loss

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TVS Entertainment, one of the four losers in last month's ITV licence auction, has ruled out any involvement in a bid for the new Channel 5 or participation in a "losers' satellite channel" on Astra.

But TVS, which is still debating whether to continue as an independent producer once its broadcasting licence expires on January 1, 1993, said it would consider merging its UK production arm with an independent producer to become a significant player in the independent sector.

Revealing an interim pre-tax loss of £10.7 million compared with pre-tax profits of £7.8 million last year, Rudolph Agnew, the chairman, said the company had also received several expressions of interest in its programme catalogue, which contains the

Ruth Rendell Mysteries and Perfect Scoundrels. But the company, which might decide to continue as a distributor, has yet to put a value on the programme library.

Mr Agnew said: "It is too early to tell exactly what shape the company will take at the end of 1992. We are looking at a number of options for continued operations in the UK, but it is all a question of trying to decide what is in our shareholders' best interests."

As for Channel 5, which the Independent Television Commission advertised last week, Mr Agnew said: "Exposing yourself to the vagaries of the ITC, well, we would prefer not to do that again."

TVS blamed its losses in the six months to June 30 on a 12.4 per cent decline in advertising revenue to £102 mil-

lion, a sharper fall than sustained by the ITV network as a whole. Trading profits at MTM, its American production subsidiary, fell by £3.1 million into a loss of £2.4 million. Mr Agnew said there were no plans to sell MTM.

The company incurred a loss per share of 15.2p compared with earnings per share of 5.3p last year. There is no interim dividend (1.7p).

Prospects look better for 1992, given the government's decision to cut the exchequer levy on advertising revenue from 10 per cent to just 2.5 per cent, starting in January. Costs will also be significantly reduced, with the first 80 of 720 staff at TVS Television to lose their jobs in February.

Regional programme output will be cut. James Capel forecasts full-year profits for 1992 of about £25 million.

Leucadia sells Molins stake

BY MATTHEW BOND

LEUCADIA National Corporation, the American industrial holdings company, yesterday gave up its 18-month battle to gain control of Molins, the cigarette machinery maker, and placed its 48.4 per cent stake in the company.

The decision ends Molins' four-year battle for independence, during which the company fought off three hostile bids — two from Sir Ron Brierley and last year's from Leucadia.

Since Leucadia's bid lapsed in May last year, Molins has also defeated the bidder's attempts to win control of the Molins board. After the bid lapsed, Leucadia was left with a 45 per cent stake, but subsequently increased this to 46.6 per cent. When Leucadia was again free to buy in August, it took its holding up to 48.4 per cent and called for an extraordinary general meeting at which it again planned to win board control.

However, the 20 institutions that own the balance of Molins' shares remained loyal to the company's management. With 99 per cent of the eligible shares being voted, all of Leucadia's proposals were defeated.

Michael Orr, the Molins chairman, was delighted with the placing. "The placing represents a very satisfactory solution for all parties. Molins will now be able to pursue the development of its business without the distractions that have been a feature of recent years."

Leucadia's stake was bought by Cazenove Securities, Molins' broker, which

later placed most of the shares with a number of British investment institutions. Eight institutions took 11.8 million of the shares, while the balance of 3.1 million shares was placed during the afternoon at 332p. Molins' shares fell 21p to 338p.

Leucadia paid 252p for its original 33 per cent stake. Its final bid was worth 275p a share.

Harland to shed 300 jobs

BY ROBERT RODWELL

HARLAND and Wolff, the Belfast shipyard, is to cut 300 jobs less than three months after landing a £230 million six-month order that managers believed would safeguard the existing employment level until 1994.

The disclosure, contrasting starkly with the optimism of August 27, upset east Belfast, only days after Carrington Viyella announced the closure of a local shirt factory with the loss of 350 jobs.

Of the Harland and Wolff group's total 2,850 workforce, about 2,250 are employed directly by the shipbuilding subsidiary, including those on temporary contracts.

□ Davy McKee, the engineer, is to shed 150 jobs among its 800 workforce at Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Norweb makes £33m

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORWEB yesterday became the first of the 12 regional electricity supply companies to turn in results for the half to September 30, reporting a pre-tax profit of £33.4 million.

The company declared a dividend of 5.3p, up 13 per cent from last year's notional payout, but said the rise reflected its "exceptional" performance. Profitability rose strongly compared with the notional £10.2 million lost in the same period last year, when Norweb was still state-

owned. Cost-cutting has already begun to take effect. The numbers of employees at the company, which serves the Northwest of England, fell by 220 to 7,700 during the first half, and more jobs will go during the second, all by natural wastage.

Norweb is believed to enjoy some of the cheapest bulk power supplies in England since generation began last month at Britain's first independently owned, combined cycle gas fired power station, at Roosecote, Cumbria.

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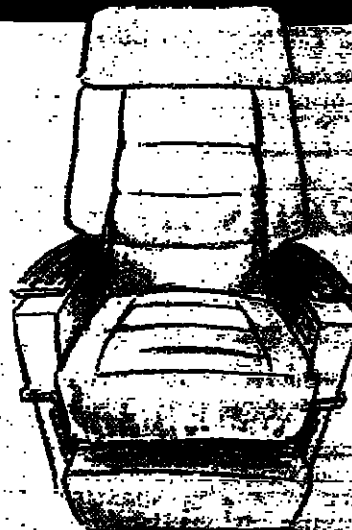
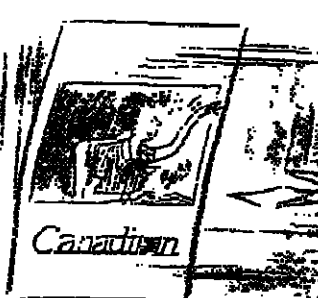
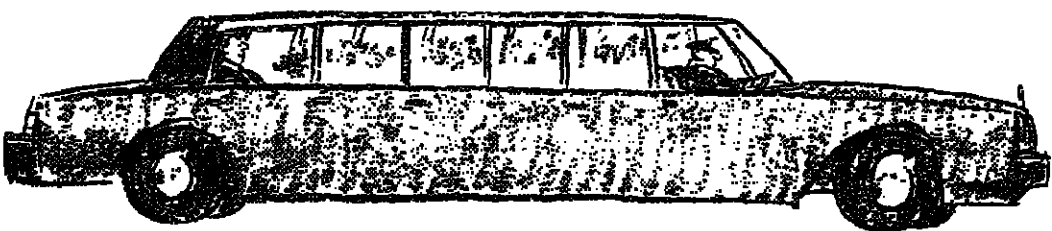
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Allied looks on the bright side

WALL STREET

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the inhibitor on the rate of polymerization of α -methylstyrene in the presence of SnCl_4 at 25°C .

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Sevens Trust	Water	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
2	Diocese of	Drugs/Pharm	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
3	Salmon (C)	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
4	Nu-South	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
5	Shelley	Building/Rd	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
6	RHM	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
7	Stann (I)	Building/Rd	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
8	Time & Life	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
9	Yorkshire W	Water	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
10	Cable Wireless	Electrical	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
11	Marble Spencer	Drugs/Pharm	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
12	Reed Int	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
13	Reed Int	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
14	Team World	Leisure	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
15	Flower Slidy	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
16	North West	Water	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
17	Chemical	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
18	Azure Br Force	Transport	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
19	RMC Cp	Building/Rd	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
20	THORN EMI	Electrical	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
21	IMI	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
22	Slough Estates	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
23	Burnish Cent	Oil, Gas	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
24	BOC	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
25	Tipton	Transport	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
26	Land Sec	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
27	GEC	Electrical	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
28	South West	Water	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
29	Unilever	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
30	Unilever	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
31	BOC Group	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
32	Warwick	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
33	Southdown	Property	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
34	Young (P)	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
35	BITR	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
36	Smithline	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
37	Holroyd Tech	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
38	Medina	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
39	Unilever	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
40	Unilever	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
41	Unilever	Food	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
42	De La Rue	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
43	Seon Health	Industrial	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
44	Carlson Comm	Leisure	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the week. Dividend of £1,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Total

The £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Robin Lingard, of Shaftesbury, Dorset.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Barclays	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	HSBC	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Midland	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	NatWest	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Paragon	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Prudential	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Royal Bank	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Santander	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	TSB	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Windsor	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Amey	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Balfour Beatty	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Bechtel	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Chambers	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Costain	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heathcote	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	James Dwyer	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	John Laing	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	McAlpine	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Ward	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

Turnover up as rally extends

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 25. Dealings end December 6. Settlement day December 16. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1.10	1.00	Adnams	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Beck's	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Carlsberg	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Guinness	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Heineken	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	King	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Miller	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Stout	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Tottenham	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1
1.10	1.00	Watney	1.10	1.00	9.1	12.1

INDUSTRIALS

210	62	Mills	208	...	5.6	3.6	15.2
79	44	Malco	51	...	...	...	...
94	75	MINT Comp	92	...	3.2	5.1	13.7
120	66	Molten	93	↑	...	5.6	17.7
25	11	MTL Inc	245	...	...	2.8	15.6
93	48	Mobstone Elect	80	...	2.0	3.3	14.3
73	45	Murray Ener	71	...	...	...	...
7675	3900	NYNEX	4168	+ 6	...	...	...
65	63	Newmark (I)	63	...	0.7	2.2	10.8
46	25	Noah	43	...	...	...	...
81	40	Northstar	41	...	2.5	8.1	...
103	62	Nova Group	99	...	...	1.8	...

Banks that are shielded from prying eyes

The bad news for Japan's seven trust banks is that they have suffered profit falls averaging more than 45 per cent in the first half of this fiscal year, according to figures just published. Sluggish real estate and stock markets are to blame. The good news is that the seven have so far managed to avoid being dragged into the scandal in which 21 securities houses are embroiled. Those firms reimbursed investment losses, running to more than ¥170 billion (£700 million), to favoured corporate clients.

It is widely believed, however, that the trust banks have paid out still larger sums to compensate clients for losses made on investments in the share and bond markets.

When the loss compensation scandal first surfaced in July, the financial authorities quickly dampened panic in the markets by announcing that the trust banks would not be investigated.

The Ministry of Finance's reluctance to dig around among the trust banks was interpreted not as evidence of their innocence, but as a signal that the ministry wished to stop the embarrassing scandals spreading further. Japan's trust banks are the guardians of the nation's

Japan's trust banks look after the nation's pension funds. That could be why they are left strictly alone. Joanna Pitman reports

pension funds, where every hardworking salaryman invests his savings. They therefore shoulder a big responsibility for the future support of Japan's rapidly ageing society and so were apparently deemed inviolate.

Every Japanese has a vested interest in the pension funds. City suburbs are always plastered with slogans advertising new pension plans, sold under such whimsical names as "Thanks Life-time Granny" and "Old's Good".

There are frequent stories of Japanese government attempts to purchase the Pae Islands, or a slab of southern Spain, to house Japan's burgeoning numbers of old people. Japan already has 3,298 centenarians.

The trust banks are therefore to be protected, but the securities houses were ripe for a shake-up. Not only had they been doing out illegal loss compensation, they had also been doing business with gangsters and speculators. They have been publicly upbraided. Some of their presidents have resigned and all have sworn it will never

happen again. Referring to suspicions that the trust banks made larger loss compensation payments than the securities firms, Nozomu Kunishige, of Kleinwort Benson International, in Tokyo, said: "In the past, such payments were not considered illegal. They were very common but now this has all been covered up."

Last month, however, it emerged that Chuo Trust and Banking, Japan's sixth-largest trust bank, might have compensated a customer for investment losses last year.

The trust bank paid ¥170 million to the Hiroshima Prefectural Labour Credit Association, four years after it had signed a contract with the association for managing ¥500 million in the form of a five-year money trust.

"This is not compensation," said Shinya Miyazaki of Chuo Trust and Banking. "This is standard practice for many of our customers."

Compensation or not compensation? The difficulty seems to have become one of semantics and the degree to which the ministry is pre-

pared to accept what appear to be disguised compensation payments. One foreign investment banker said: "We have often been asked to guarantee investment returns and to make up the difference ourselves if the investments fall short, because that is what the Japanese trust banks do."

Japan's trust banks are not subject to the scrutiny of independent rating agencies because they have refused to disclose information.

The trust banks control private sector pension funds worth ¥23,000 billion (almost £100 billion). According to the trust funds' association, Japanese pension funds are likely to grow by 20 per cent over the coming decade.

Foreign investment fund managers with proven track records are irked that they are sidelined by legislation from the rich pickings of the Japanese pension fund business. David Mulford, US undersecretary for international affairs at the US Treasury, was in Japan a few weeks ago arguing their case.

It is a strong one. In March this year, the nine foreign investment trust firms operating in Japan managed just ¥59 billion of the private sector pension fund pool.



Spokesman for foreigners: David Mulford

NSM sells Bison to cut group debt

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NSM, the loss-making minerals and building materials group, has been forced to sell one of its main businesses to a management buyout in an effort to reduce debt.

The group is selling Bison, a reinforced concrete supplier, for £30.75 million in cash. This marks the end of a disastrous three-year episode for NSM, which bought Bison for £82.5 million in 1988 as part of a plan to diversify.

The deal will be Bison's second management buyout in a decade. Derek Hankinson, the managing director, first bought the company for £9.5 million in 1985 and sold it to NSM three years later. He is now being backed by Touche Ross for the latest acquisition.

During its stay with NSM, Bison acquired Monoliet, a Dutch subsidiary, bringing the group's total investment to more than £90 million, more than three times the amount the disposal will raise.

John Jermaine, NSM's chief executive, said the disposal was regrettable but necessary to cut group debt and return it to profitability. NSM lost £1.37 million in the half year

to end September due to high interest costs, compared with £6.21 million pre-tax profit. The group is cancelling its interim dividend, which was 0.5p last time.

"Bison is a lovely business but we cannot afford to keep it, since we cannot be certain when the upturn in the building industry is coming," said Mr Jermaine. Bison lost £1.3 million in the half year, although Monoliet made a £500,000 profit.

Mr Jermaine said that the disposal would reduce debts from £105 million to £64 million by the end of the financial year, which should allow the group to return to profits next year. Overall, the group made a £4.81 million operating profit in the last half year but this was wiped out by interest costs of £6.18 million.

The sale has been forced on the group after its failure to sell its waste businesses for an expected £20 million. Parts are now being sold but will raise only up to £10 million.

The disposals leave NSM with its two coal mining businesses in Britain and America. These are continuing to increase production due to heavy capital investment.

Fairline falls 37% but exports rise

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE recession finally took its toll of Fairline Boats, with the luxury boat builder suffering its first fall in full-year profits since 1982, despite record exports.

Pre-tax profits fell 37 per cent to £3.02 million in the year to end-September, on sales down 10 per cent to £35 million, after conditions deteriorated in the second half.

Sam Newington, the chairman, said conditions in all markets had been "extremely difficult".

The United Kingdom was worst affected, with sales down 23 per cent, although export sales improved on those of last year. Exports now account for 58 per cent of group sales, against 51 per

cent last year and 40 per cent in 1989.

In October, Fairline made 60 staff redundant at Oundle and Weldon, Northamptonshire. The company had announced 70 redundancies at the same two plants in February.

Mr Newington said: "We arrived at the end of the summer with very few orders in hand, but there have been signs of an upturn since then. New products have been extremely well received."

Fairline, which has about 400 employees, has benefited from healthy demand for its new Squadron 62, which was launched in September. Order books—dominated by overseas customers—for the top-of-the-range, 62ft motor yacht, which sells for about £500,000, are full until next October. Prices for Fairline's smallest boats start at about £45,000 for a 28ft craft.

Mr Newington said that a large backlog of orders will help carry the group through this winter.

He added: "The current year will not be pleasant, but no lasting harm will be done to the company and we are well placed to take advantage of the upturn."

Earnings fell to 55.9p per share, down from 88.8p last time. The final dividend is held at 13.85p, making an unchanged total of 21p for the year. The shares fell 28p to 490p.



Newington: backlog

Perkins buys two more food firms

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PERKINS Foods has agreed to buy Cogel, a Luxembourg manufacturer of frozen pasta dishes, and Studleigh-Royd, a chicken and turkey products manufacturer based at Doncaster and Eiland, for up to a combined LFr943 million (£23.1 million).

The initial payment for Cogel is LFr570 million, of

which LFr74 million will be met in cash and LFr496 million through 5.6 million Perkins shares. Of the new shares, 2.4 million will be retained by the vendors and the remainder placed on their behalf at 147p per share. Further consideration of up to LFr373 million is payable, of which LFr313 million is dependent on Cogel's profits over the next three years.

For Studleigh-Royd, Perkins will pay £7 million initially, of which £2.9 million will be in cash, £600,000 in secured loan notes and £3.5 million in 9.98 million deutschmark convertible preference shares in Perkins. Further consideration of up to £3.8 million will become payable depending on profits.

To finance the initial cash payments, including LFr74 million payable to one of the Cogel vendors who is not participating in the vendor placing arrangements, Perkins plans to raise £5.9 million through a cash placing of 4.02 million new shares at 147p per share.

The balance of funds raised under the cash placing will provide working capital for Cogel, Studleigh-Royd and Anchor Seafoods, whose acquisition was announced earlier this month.

Adjusted profit at Cogel for 1990 was LFr88 million. Net assets at December 31 were LFr137 million. Studleigh-Royd's net assets as at October 26, 1991 were £1.1 million and the vendors have warranted that profits for the year to that date are not less than £1.5 million.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1991

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A hard road to political reform

Complacent Italian politicians have been shaken by an unmistakable urge for change, as Paul Bompard reports

In Italy a mood of buoyant optimism often co-exists with grumblings about impending political and economic disaster. As 1991 draws to a close, Italy remains an affluent and productive nation, so far relatively unshaken by the recession.

Car sales, for example, have dropped by less than one per cent over the past year, compared to a fall of 21.5 per cent in Britain and 13.1 per cent in France. Italians are still spending as freely as they have done since the "boom" of the early Eighties.

Yet there are deeply-rooted flaws in Italian society, among them inefficient but costly public services, organised crime, corruption, and an apparently uncontrollable public deficit. And Italians are becoming increasingly intolerant of the failure to deal with them.

There is a growing chorus of voices calling for radical reforms of the political system and the way the country is run. Even the most solidly entrenched politicians have begun to listen.

A referendum in June showed strong support for a constitutional change that was superficially minor but had wide implications. It abolished a system of preference voters that enabled local political leaders to receive blocks of such votes from a given area in exchange for favours. In many areas, it had enabled local Mafia chiefs to acquire political influence.

Most of the established political parties advised the electorate to boycott the referendum, on the grounds that it was an attempt to usurp the duties of the elected government and parliament. But more than 60 per cent of voters turned out, well above the required 50 per cent minimum. Of those who voted, more than 95 per cent supported the proposed change.

Another phenomenon which has shaken the complacency of Italy's politicians is the growth of the *leghe*, or leagues. These are

grass-roots political movements that originated in northern Italy but have spread to many central and southern regions. They have no clear ideology, but are united by their loathing for the existing party system and what they see as the waste, mismanagement and corruption of the central government in Rome.

In recent local elections in the north, the *leghe* received more than 20 per cent of the vote, and they have hopes of attracting a substantial protest vote at the next general election, due in May.

The discontent is with a system of government which no longer

'Many problems simply have not been tackled energetically enough'

seems capable of managing the needs, political and administrative, of today's Italy. The system is criticised for being slow and cumbersome in taking action on any but the most unimportant issues, and a handicap in a single-market Europe.

Many important legislative changes of recent years, it is pointed out, have come about through referenda promoted by groups outside the government. Divorce and abortion are prime examples.

More referenda are planned by Mario Segni, the Christian Democrat who initiated the vote in June. Earlier this month, the Confindustria, the confederation of Italian industrialists, which is one of the main political and economic forces in the country, joined the chorus of criticism when

it announced its support for the referendum.

Paradoxically, one of the causes of this state of affairs is that Italy's electoral system is, on paper, one of the most democratic and proportional in the world. A party that gets 3 per cent of the vote gets 3 per cent of the seats in parliament.

However, the result has been a succession of coalition governments. The present one is made up of the Christian Democrats, the Socialists, the Liberals and the Social Democrats, headed by Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister.

These governments have enabled Italy to reach an unprecedented level of prosperity and avoid serious social upheavals. They have maintained democracy in a country which at the end of the second world war had undergone 23 years of dictatorship, racked by poverty and political chaos, and might easily have slipped into civil war. It had the largest Communist party in the west, which received at times over 30 per cent of the vote and had close ties with Moscow, maintained until recently.

There is an intrinsic weakness, however, in governments formed by coalitions of four or five parties. It has meant that many problems simply have not been tackled energetically enough.

The lack of a periodic change-over between government and opposition has dulled the initiative of politicians, who would otherwise be forced to act decisively in the interest of their voters, for fear of not being re-elected.

Over the past year, pressure for institutional reform has also come from some leading politicians. President Francesco Cossiga has repeatedly denounced the ills of Italian politics and called for drastic changes in the 1948 constitution.

Signor Cossiga's statements have shaken both political and



Viva referendum! Despite a boycott by the main parties, the June ballot showed strong popular support for constitutional change

public opinion, accustomed in the past to presidents who limited themselves to a ceremonial role. Signor Cossiga destroyed his Christian Democratic party membership card when he took office in 1985, to show that he intended to be above the fray, and in the past two years he has clashed with the government, with the party he formerly belonged to, and with most of the other parties on the issue of reform.

His presidency will end next summer, and it is thought that as the end of his term has drawn closer, he has felt increasingly impelled by his own conscience to speak out, sometimes brutally, against what he sees as the ills of Italian politics.

Recently, in an effort to deal with the budget deficit and the costly national debt, the government presented a package of financial legislation which most

economists think is feeble. Even if it works as well in practice as the government hopes, it will not reduce the deficit or the national debt, but stop the deficit increasing for a time by means of a series of one-off measures, such as advances on income tax payments.

Signor Cossiga said that "if an individual managed his personal financial affairs the way the government is running those of the nation, he would soon end up in prison". And even if many politicians have criticised him as a quarrelsome critic of the system which brought him to power, opinion polls show that most Italians applaud his lashings of the political establishment.

It was noticeable that the June referendum was not promoted by Radicals, Greens or Communists, all in opposition, but by Signor

Segni, a member of the dominant Christian Democrats. Signor Segni has now drawn up a list of further referenda to reform other parts of the political system.

An unofficial campaign is already under way for the coming general election. It is clear that more than a dozen political parties will take part, each presenting a list of candidates all over the country. The prospect is that votes will be split among even more minorities than at the last election, and that what some commentators are describing as a "Polish stalemate" will ensue, leading to yet another coalition government even more paralysed by its weakness than its predecessors.

This strengthens the case for drastic electoral reforms, but it is hard to see how such a government could introduce changes which would inevitably penalise members of the coalition.

Bettino Craxi, secretary of the Socialist party, has suggested setting a 5 per cent cut-off, beneath which a party would have no seats in parliament. This has alarmed parties like the Social Democrats, the Republicans and the Liberals, which now have less than 5 per cent but have been key members of most of the post-war governments.

The Liberals have suggested copying the French system, in which representatives would be elected in a first ballot in each constituency only if they received half or more of the vote; failing this, there would be a second ballot between the two candidates who received the most votes.

The Christian Democrats claim to be open to all suggestions. But they appear extremely wary of backing reforms that would change a system under which they have dominated Italian politics since the second world war.



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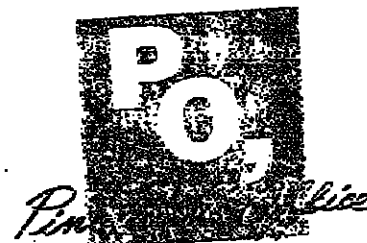
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A central role in the future of Europe

As one of the larger countries in the European Community, Italy has long been one of the strongest supporters of union. But as the Maastricht summit conference on monetary and political union next month approaches, Italy is letting it be known that it has become less fervent in its advocacy of a federal Europe.

"Italy wants a pragmatic mixture of federalism, confederalism and co-operation between member governments," a senior official has said. "The days of federalist ideology are past."

Gianni Bonvicini, director of the International Affairs Institute in Rome, points out that Italy feels it has a weak position on the negotiations on a common currency because of its high inflation rate and enormous budget deficit.

"There is a fear that clauses may be put in the treaty to the effect that countries that do not fulfil certain economic standards will somehow be pushed to the edges of decision-making in future phases," he says. "Italy will therefore try to keep these economic opt-out clauses separate from the main treaty, so that the country will have time to set its economic house in order while not being excluded from full-scale political status."

Defence will be one of the important issues at Maastricht. France and Germany have proposed building up the Western European Union (WEU) as an organisation responsible for joint European defence, and have argued that it should eventually become the defence arm of the EC.

Italy has always been a strong believer in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, however, and, like Britain, it is anxious that Nato, including the Americans, should not be excluded from European defence. With Britain, Italy is the co-author of a

**Paul Bompard
says Italy
will be more
pragmatic at
Maastricht**

paper which, while it acknowledges the growing importance of WEU, insists that it should retain links with Nato and not reduce its role.



Italy's prime minister Andreotti and foreign minister De Michelis in Dublin

It is determined that Britain should be part of any arrangements for joint European defence. "Italy wants to keep Britain in," Signor Bonvicini says. "In the belief that a European security system cannot exist without the United Kingdom, without the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent and its close ties with the United States. Otherwise France would be the only nuclear power in Europe."

The Anglo-Italian ideas are generally seen as being a challenge to those of France and Germany. But the Italian foreign ministry denies this. "The recent Anglo-Italian document on security is not in conflict with the position of the French and Germans, but complementary to it," a spokesman said. "We are in favour of WEU-based security with, clearly, close connections to the EC."

Italy is often accused of not having a foreign policy. In recent years this has not been

true, particularly since Gianni De Michelis became foreign minister in 1989 and immediately launched a more active policy.

Soon after taking office, Signor De Michelis stated three main directions for Italy's foreign policy: Europe, central Europe and the Balkans, and the Mediterranean area.

In central Europe, Signor De Michelis founded what has become known as "the Hexagonal Conference". Set up in 1989 by Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria and Hungary, it has since been joined by Czechoslovakia and Poland.

In its Mediterranean policy, Italy has been accused of softness towards Arab countries, such as Libya, with which other western nations were in conflict. But Rome argues in justification that Libya and Tunisia, for instance, are as close to Italy as Milan is to Rome.

At the time of the Gulf war, the Italian government co-operated with the United Nations, offering transport facilities and sending a small contingent consisting of a squadron of Tornados and some ships. This was followed by humanitarian missions by the army and air force to the Kurds, but officials explain that Italy is not as well equipped militarily as Britain or France.

Italy is backing the formation of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM). There have already been discussions in this context between Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and the Maghreb countries, even drawing Libya in.

The Italians are particularly worried by events in Yugoslavia and, to a lesser extent, in Albania. Having seen 20,000 Albanians cross the Adriatic in the summer, they are afraid of continuing bloodshed and the arrival of hordes of refugees.

Looking east for markets

Italy has been quick to invest in Europe's new democracies.
Janet Stobart reports

Italian companies are some of the most active in eastern Europe, rushing in for contracts when the new markets opened up with the collapse of communism.

In the first half of this year, Italy's trade deficit with the Soviet Union soared compared to the same period last year. Imports grew by 33.4 per cent while Italian exports fell by 34 per cent, creating a deficit of 1,679 billion lire (£780 million). Interest remains high, however, in what is widely considered as potentially an immense market.

Italy has well-established political ties with the former communist east. Mikhail Gorbachev has paid two visits to Rome since 1989. Hungarian, Polish and Czechoslovak leaders have visited Italy to forge political and economic links. Francesco Cossiga, the Italian president, was in Hungary and Czechoslovakia this summer.

In September, Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister, paid a brief visit to President Gorbachev to assure him of Italy's continuing support, offering a credit of 7,200 billion lire.

Italian commercial interests in the Soviet Union have long included the big names of Italian industry - Fiat, the car manufacturer, Pirelli, the chief rubber and tyre producer, and Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), the state energy conglomerate. They have now been joined by several smaller industrial and business concerns, private and public.

The first step was the decision after the second world war to produce Fiat in the Soviet Union in a factory in Togliattigrad, a city named after Palmiro Togliatti, then leader of the Italian Communist party. This year there was a plan for a joint venture with VAZ, the Soviet manufacturing group, to build a factory

at Yelabuga, 600 miles south-east of Moscow.

It has been stalled by financial difficulties, but the project has been transferred to Togliattigrad.

More visible progress has been made on the Fiat joint venture with the Polish government to produce the Fiat 500 in a factory in Bielko-Biala that will be 60 per cent run by Fiat. The cars will be made entirely with the latest Fiat technology, and the target will be 160,000 vehicles a year, of which 50,000 will be sold by Fiat in the West and the rest in eastern Europe.

The Fata Engineering group of Turin set up one of the first joint ventures by a western company in the Soviet Union in 1987. An agreement was made with the Sovitalprodman manufacturing company on the Volga to produce 300,000 refrigeration units a year.

Energy and telecommunications are two other fields where Italy is offering expertise. Ansaldo-GIE, the power engineering branch of the Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the state-owned group, has 80 per cent of Garz, the Hungarian power engineering group. The Ganz-Ansaldo joint venture is modernizing and restructuring five power plants in Hungary. It manufactures electrical power components and plans to produce electricity-run transport and related components.

It has a contract in the Soviet Union to modernize 16 turbo-gas power stations, and another to install signals on all Russian railways. Telecommunications projects include a contract made this summer by Italtel, the telecommunications subsidiary of IRI-STET, the state engineering and telecommunications group, to form a joint venture with Krasnaya



Plugging in: a young car worker in Togliattigrad, named after the former leader of the Italian Communist party

Zaria, a Soviet counterpart. The new concern, called Telexaria, will produce 1.5 million new telephone systems a year.

On a smaller scale, Alpetel, a telecommunications systems concern from Piedmont, intends to open a subsidiary in Hungary which will offer high-tech planning and management of projects.

In September Alenia, Italy's main aerospace and electronics group, signed a contract worth \$90 million to make radar air traffic control equipment for the Soviet Union. Alenia holds 49 per cent of the joint venture concern, with the remainder divided among three Soviet companies; the contract is to

ventures have been formed in those countries," he says. "Our trade is much slower than two years ago with the Eastern bloc, but even today you could say that every day in Moscow or other Soviet republics, Italo-Russian negotiations are going on."

"We are still the Soviet Union's second trade partner, after Germany. What is halting us is not so much a question of technology - I think Italy is perhaps highly suited with its small, technologically-expert companies to development there - but bureaucracy, guarantees and finance."

In Hungary, Olivetti has set up its first fully fledged Eastern European subsidiary company, and has a major contract there to set up a computer system for the Aldani Biscoschi insurance company, at present state-owned but now in the process of privatisation.

An interesting venture in Hungary is that of Zonin, Italy's biggest private wine-producer, from the Veneto region, which is negotiating with the Hungarian state land management to buy and develop a 4,000-hectare agricultural property south of Budapest.

The clothes industry is another visible mark of the Italian presence in the East. Gruppo GFT of Turin has an agreement with OZKN, a Prague clothes manufacturer, to modernize and restructure their menswear manufacturing systems. Benetton, the knitwear and children's clothes group, has a score of shops throughout Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and eastern Germany. In Moscow they plan to produce Soviet-made Benetton clothes using Soviet technology and manpower.

Other popular Italian clothes labels, including Carrera jeans, Rife jeans and Pop '84, all big names in Italian teenage wear, export to Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union, ensuring at least that eastern Europe's new young capitalists will dress with some style.

ANSALDO WORLDWIDE ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY

Ansaldo, a company of the IRI-Finmeccanica group, is the first Italian thermoelectromechanical complex and is the leader of a group of companies in the sectors of energy, transport, and large systems for industry and environment.

Ansaldo is present on international markets through an articulate organization made up of nineteen companies.

Ansaldo, one of the oldest Italian industrial realities, born in 1853, becomes the first Italian party state-owned industrial nucleus along with the foundation of IRI - Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale. In the 1960s Ansaldo represented, among other things, the industrial protagonist of the Italian state for the development of energy plants and systems, in particular for the development of nuclear energy.

With such capacity, Ansaldo participated in the development of all Italian nuclear power stations and in numerous developments on an international level.

In 1987 through a referendum on the emotional wave following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Italy decided to stop further developing nuclear energy.

All of a sudden Ansaldo found itself without its "core business" with a total loss of about 4,000 billion lire of orders already acquired by 1,700 operators with an annual turnover of approximately 500 billion lire.

Ansaldo came out of the "nuclear cataclysm" through an articulate transformation and reconversion process.

The chosen strategy was that of deeply diversifying the sectors by penetrating in new business sectors. Energy, in fact, represented about 75% of Ansaldo's business volume in 1987 with the remaining 25% divided between automation, industrial systems, and transport.

This process encouraged the company to enter new markets, for example that of railway signalling - for which Ansaldo is now the leader on an international level, that of environmental protection, and lastly, it allowed it to develop a complete range of energy systems (congenrating, photovoltaic, turbojet, etc.).

At the end of such a process, energy represented approximately 50% of Ansaldo's total turnover with a homogeneous increase of the transport and industrial business sectors (25% each).

In a little more than 2 years, in fact, Ansaldo invested 1,000 billion lire in purchasing new companies, in "know-how", in research, and offers - greatly increasing its own commercial penetration in the world.

This restructuring involved the movement of about 7,500 employees, laying off only 350 of the employees working in the nuclear business.

Of the companies acquired by Ansaldo it is important to point out the ones from the United States: Union Switch & Signal, Transcontrol, and the Swedish ATSS in the railway signalling sector; Ross Hill and Hill Graham in the industrial automation systems sector.

In 1990 Ansaldo concluded an articulate reconversion process, becoming the only thermoelectromechanical group in Italy.

In the course of 1990 acquisitions reached 5,006 billion lire, while yield production reached 3,726 billion lire. In the same period Ansaldo invested about 80 billion lire in technology with approximately 22,000 operators.

ANSALDO FOR ENERGY

In this particular sector, the company was able to put to interest its capacity as "general contractor" and as "industrial engineer", for the design and supply of both complete plants and subsystems for thermoelectric, hydroelectric, geothermal and photovoltaic power stations. The Ansaldo accomplishments in the field of energy exceed 95,000 MW: a figure that in itself highlights the company's greatly experienced background. Presently Ansaldo is operating in all of the geographical areas that in recent years have shown high demand for Ansaldo's cooperation, with fully functioning sites for over 4,000 MW.

Their activity in the energy sector has recently been marked by an important increase in acquisitions especially on international markets, through Ansaldo Gie and Ansaldo Componenti, both for energy generation plants and for service activities.

In the energy generating power stations sector, the company in 1989 acquired contracts for about 2,600 MW of turbogroups and for approximately 2,500 MW of vapor generators: Ansaldo now controls 14% of the international turbogroups market.

ANSALDO FOR TRANSPORT

Ansaldo Trasporti designs and creates "turnkey" electrical transport systems, furnishes the vehicles, the supply, signalling, and automation systems and the mechanical components with particular attention to research, to development and to innovative design: in the last years over 3,000 locomotives, over 600 vehicles for undergrounds and regional railways, over 700 tramways and light undergrounds, approximately 3,300 trolley-buses have been produced; signalling systems on over 3,000 km of railway and about 15,000 MW of power supply have been installed. In the urban transport sector, and in particular that of undergrounds, Ansaldo is involved as "main contractor" in the accomplishment of projects that are presently under way in Italy and, together with other partners, in the realization of projects that have been recently started in several large cities abroad (Lima, Bogota, Buenos Aires). In railway signalling activities, where Ansaldo Trasporti and a series of its associated companies (Transcontrol, Transystem, Union Switch & Signal, Wago, Westinghouse, ATSS) are operating, the company holds a position of leadership on an international level.

ANSALDO FOR INDUSTRY

Ansaldo has progressively expanded its projecting and construction from single machinery and their mechanical components to operating instructions, from the first electrical controlling equipment to the most recent and sophisticated electronic instruments for entire productive processes, becoming the protagonist of every-day systematics. Ansaldo therefore designs and creates machinery and systems for the movement of raw materials, harbour and naval plants, hydraulic systems and relative equipment, directs activities of electroinstrumental mountings and of rehabilitation, enlarges and revises already-existing plants.

Making the best of its own plant engineering and manufacturing experiences, Ansaldo is now present in the field of environmental protection, operating also through a series of recently-purchased and strongly-specialized companies.

For Ansaldo, 1990 represents the year that marked the accomplishment of important objectives, first of all the creation of an "Italian System" in the thermoelectromechanical sector today being the only Italian constructor integrated in the energy production sector, a leader on the Italian market and a protagonist on an international level.

The strategy that allowed Ansaldo to manage this sort of restructuring and reorganizing process was made possible uniquely because of the technological and market qualities arisen from the synergies and interactions of the three sectors that make up each large thermoelectromechanical group: energy, transport, industry.

In 1990 Ansaldo's energy product portfolio enriched through the acquisition of gas turbine technology, the result of a long-term cooperation agreement with the energy generation group (KWU) of Siemens AG. On the basis of this agreement, Ansaldo is given the right to the production, commercialization and service of gas turbines of Siemens design and technology, to then follow with a design and successive technological development cooperation.

In the field of transport (after the acquisition of the Italian companies of Wabco, US&S, Transcontrol, and its participation in the French company CSEE in 1989), in 1990 Ansaldo Trasporti founded, in agreement with the Swedish company Standard Radio & Telefon AB, a new company named AT Signal System AB (ATSS) - of which 75% is controlled by Ansaldo Trasporti - to create automatic drive systems and train movement control systems.

Furthermore, again with the Siemens Group, Ansaldo started a cooperation and technological integration agreement in the cable transport sector for the development, the production, and the research in the railway sector.

The internationalization process in 1990 recorded significant results. The new Hungarian company Ganz-Ansaldo - mainly Ansaldo-owned - was founded in 1990 and was given the activities of Ganz Electric, the largest Hungarian electromechanical group. The widening of its international presence in the sector, its articulation in evermore diversified businesses, and the necessity to take part in a continuously changing market, has demanded - both in supply and demand - a coherent adjustment of its structure. The reorganization, founded on the structure of the leading Ansaldo as the coordinating and controlling centre for the business/company operating areas and constituted by 11 businesses, has demanded, in fact, a further development and improvement that, defined in the course of the last months of 1990 and operating since January 1991, transformed Ansaldo into a corporation.

State involvement and employment laws have protected the Italian worker, but this will change, Paul Bompard reports

In comparison with the rest of Europe, Italy has so far escaped the effects of the global recession. The presence of state corporations in many sectors of industry and services, east-iron employment laws, and the indexing of wages to inflation, have meant that the slump has been felt less harshly than in Britain. Until now.

Workers in Italy have been among the most secure and best protected in the world. They are spared the effects of price increases by automatic wage indexation (a policy which is only now being questioned). They are virtually immune from dismissal once they have a job. And even when a company is forced to lay workers off, the state is usually ready to pay 80 per cent of their wages for a period of at least 12 months.

This system has succeeded in preventing social trauma in the ups and downs of the economic cycle. For instance, while the rest of the world suffers the recession, this year consumer spending grew in Italy, although less than in 1990, while the numbers in employment increased slightly, and wages have more than kept track with inflation. Only new car sales have dropped, by 0.9 per cent, but still less than in Britain and France.

Spared ravages of the recession

But, in much the same way that the shock absorbers put a break on the natural bounce of a car's suspension, the Italian system has also hampered the response of the economy to the needs of the market.

It has contributed heavily to one of the Italian economy's most basic problems, the apparently uncontrollable growth of a national debt which is now well in excess of a full year's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and which is costing the state almost a quarter of its annual budget to service. The budget itself has been regularly in the red, with no prospect of immediate improvement.

One effect of this debt has been that the state has been forced to issue treasury paper at high interest rates, diverting investment from the potentially more productive needs of private enterprise.

The Italian economy, while protecting employees, has seen its industry steadily lose

international competitiveness. Fiat, for example, has seen its share of the domestic car market fall from more than 60 per cent to less than 50 per cent in only five years, in spite of having taken over Alfa Romeo and Maserati.

Fiat, Olivetti and other important Italian companies are now going through their most difficult and uncertain period since the late 1970s. Industrial production has fallen by about 2 per cent in the past year, exports of goods and services have dropped by 0.7 per cent in the last six months, inflation, at about 6 per cent, is higher than the European average, and only a continued growth in the services sector has permitted the GDP to increase by a modest 0.9 per cent, compared with 2 per cent in 1990.

Of course, none of these figures include the millions of daily acts of production and transaction that form the fascinating black economy, un-

measured and untaxed, but a force which keeps the country's economic fly wheel spinning. Economists estimate that the black economy adds between 10 and 20 per cent to the official GDP, but, given the astounding display of affluence of many Italians, these estimates might well be conservative.

The manner in which Italy should tackle its economic problems is politically difficult to implement, given the weakness of the coalition government. The package of financial legislation recently presented by the government and discussed by parliament through November was not strong initially, and in subsequent amendments was further weakened. With an election set for May 1992, this is hardly surprising.

The Confindustria, the industrialists' association, has announced that it will refuse to sign a renewal of the *scala mobile*, the "moving stair-

case" wage indexation system, when the agreement expires at the end of the year. The unions can hardly be expected to take this move lying down.

In an effort to reduce the national debt, the government has announced that it intends to sell off wholly, or in part, some of its holdings in industry and services, including the banking sector, which is 80 per cent controlled by the state. Agreement has yet to be reached in the government coalition as to how this should be done.

Professor Luigi Spaventa, perhaps Italy's most respected economist, believes that "a reduction of the public deficit is essential, as well as a tighter fiscal policy and an incomes policy that reduces the rate of inflation". He adds, however, that "before the elections in May, it is unlikely that the necessary measures will be taken. The financial legislation which is now struggling through parliament is in itself insufficient".

Traditionally, the Italian economy has reacted well in adversity. Possibly, as the single European market approaches, enough pressure will be exerted on the ruling parties to take the determined steps that are needed.



Port in a storm: the Italian system has helped to prevent social trauma

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Complaints of late decisions

Echoing business, the president has criticised the plans to improve finances

President Francesco Cossiga recently made an unexpectedly harsh criticism of the government's expedients to restore public finances. "If an individual managed his personal financial affairs the way the government is running those of the nation," he said, "he would soon end up in prison."

The president went on: "Uncovered and unchecked, these are offences under common law, but in the new science of public finance, they are refined instruments of the budget."

Italian industry is already hard-pressed, and recent last-minute government decisions on financial and tax measures have only added to the uncertainties. What advance payments of next year's taxes must be made by the end of November (this was decided less than a month ago)? Will the wage indexation system expire at the end of December? Will the structure of labour costs be radically reorganised and reduced this winter? Will a government-proposed pensions reform, delaying the age of retirement, ever see the light of day?

Therefore, it is little wonder that Italian industrialists, though they enjoy one of the most generous systems of public incentives anywhere, are more critical of the government than ever before. They are seeing their difficulties compounded in an economic cycle which, later than in Britain, is only now moving from stagnation to recession.

Employers complain that labour costs, estimated to rise this year by 10 to 11 per cent, are well above those of Italy's competitors. In certain industries, such as textiles, the difference between Italian production costs and those of the third world is huge.

Other statistics are similarly discouraging. Inflation remains above 6 per cent. Industrial production is running 2.4 per cent below last year. Gross internal product in 1991 will increase by no more than about 1 per cent, abnormally sluggish for Italy.

Professor Romano Prodi, former chairman of the Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the state corporation, and an ex-minister, maintains that the difficulties are structural. He sees a real risk of de-industrialisation.

None of the new consumer goods, like cellular telephones, fax machines and microwave ovens, had been invented in Italy, Professor Prodi noted recently, so that all such items were drains on the balance of payments.

Italy, unlike Britain, was slow to accept Japanese know-how and techniques, and the Japanese were shy of investing there.

The biggest private company, Fiat, has a diminishing

market share in Italy and is now second to Volkswagen in Europe. To counter this, Fiat says it will invest 40,000 billion lire (£18.6 billion) over the next ten years and bring out 18 new models. It is spending 6,672 billion lire (£3.1 billion) on new plants in the south — while, the unions complain, laying off labour in existing factories in the north. This sum includes government incentives worth 3,100 billion lire (£1.4 billion) either in grants or interest payment contributions.

Like several other companies, Fiat is reacting to high domestic labour costs by moving production abroad. It has bought 51 per cent of FSM in Poland, to make small "Cinquecento" models and a new Alfa Romeo.

Ferruzzi-Montedison, the second biggest private group, has, in the past 12 months, provided drama worthy of any soap opera.

In November 1990, Raul Gardini, its chief, alleging political interference, sold out its holding in the Enimont chemical joint venture to the other partner, the state-owned Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI). At the same time, he resigned his posts in Italy with the Ferruzzi-Montedison group.

Then, in June, Signor Gardini, who is married into the Ferruzzi family but does not have a shareholding, was sacked by his in-laws when he tried to come back with a plan for redistributing the family holdings. Now Enimont, re-

named Enichem, is seeking an ally with which to weather the recession.

The government's attitude is also important in the construction and civil engineering sector, which was boosted in 1990 by public works for football's World Cup.

The industry is now suffering the effects of cuts in public spending. The state-owned Italmobiliare has overtaken Cogefar-Impregilo, a private company, as the biggest firm on the basis of turnover. Italmobiliare is in loss, however, and Cogefar-Impregilo in profit.

In informatics, Carlo De Benedetti has announced his personal return to the helm at Olivetti, the leading maker of computers and office systems, which has plunged into a loss of 74 billion lire (£34.4 million) for the first half-year. Signor De Benedetti rescued it once before, in 1978-84. He seeks an alliance with Finsiel, the state-owned software company, but has so far been rebuffed.

Signor De Benedetti is pessimistic about the general economic outlook. "For Europe, 1992 will be very bad," he told a Rome newspaper, "and for Italy, still worse."

JOHN EARLE

PAVAROTTI IN THE CHARTS.

TINTORETTO ON POSTCARDS.

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YOU CAN KEEP TO

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The Italian domination is credited to a handful of entrepreneurs who mobilise talent and back it with plenty of money, Liz Smith says



Italian style: unstructured tailoring for spring/summer 1992, cotton/viscose mix suit with washed silk shirt...

Taking the stuffing out of menswear

Changing attitudes towards men's fashion in the past decade and new ways of thinking about ease and comfort in even the crustiest of Savile Row tailoring establishments have come about thanks to innovations in construction, to the latest technology in the production of featherweight suitings — and to the Italians.

For more than a decade, the international menswear market has been dominated by the Italians. It is not just because Giorgio Armani revolutionised men's tailoring by taking the stuffing out of jackets and by making rumpled linen suits chic. Nor that Gianni Versace pioneered daring new colour and a flamboyant cut in an otherwise conservative and slow-moving market.

The fact is that every other off-the-peg suit bought in a British high street store, such as Marks & Spencer or Next, is distinguished by its "Italian look" — that same Armani-inspired draped jacket with its deconstructed cut, softly padded shoulder line, no back vents and minimal use of horsehair interlining. Versace's colourful new V2 menswear line is now brightening up branches of Cecil Gee.

Trendsetting ideas do not, however, necessarily add up to high sales figures, as any British designer will confirm.

The Italian domination of the international menswear market is more properly credited to a handful of entrepreneurs who know how to mobilise talent and back it with plenty of money. The partnership between Italian design and Italian industry is the success story behind the "Made in Italy" label. It harnesses to industry the native artisan spirit and the Italian cult of the *bella figura*.

It is the creative businessman, rather than the designer, who regularly anticipates market trends, and delivers what the consumer wants before he knows that he wants it. The success of Italian menswear is a phenomenon that looks set to withstand even the current slump in fashion retailing.

Marzotto, based in Valdarno, is Italy's largest textile and clothing manufacturer with overall sales of

nearly £700 million. In addition to its vast textile business — in Britain, Next, Marks & Spencer, Aquascutum and Jaeger order more than a million metres of Marzotto cloth a year — Marzotto creates the Principe by Marzotto, Gianfranco Ferré, Missoni Uomo and Biagotti menswear collections.

In keeping with the aggressive approach of Pietro Marzotto, the chairman, to buying up companies against intense competition, Marzotto recently acquired Hugo Boss, the German mass-market menswear label.

Gruppo GFT, based in Turin since the 1920s, manufactures the menswear collections for Valentino, Armani, Ungaro and Montana (and the designers' womenswear lines). After a drop in net earnings in 1990 of 74.2 per cent from 42.7 billion lire (£20 million) to 11 billion lire, Marco Rivetti, GFT's chairman, acknowledges that the group's profitability peaked in 1986, and the levels

'Made in Italy' harnesses the artisan spirit and the cult of the *bella figura*

of the boom years in the 1980s are not likely to return. "It is good to stop and put new methods of productivity and technology to work," he says.

GFT and Gruppo Marzotto are the industrial giants credited with putting Italian design on the map. It is they who supplied the commercial structure and manufacturing base they needed to capitalise on the boom and establish today's flourishing fashion empires. Even with the designer business shrinking and the mass market in a hazardous state, the time is right for the Italian fashion empires dedicated to quality.

In the past decade, professional man discovered the year-round comfort of wearing the top-quality lightweight wools and viscose mixes that go into the lightly-constructed suits pioneered by the Italian menswear manufacturers. He is not going to be easily unbuttoned out of it.

Paul Smith, the British designer-retailer who sets the exam-

ple for our home-based menswear industry (he is also design consultant to Marks & Spencer), has similarly pioneered the transformation of the traditional British suit from an intricately-engineered weighty outfit in a 300-gramme cloth, into a stylish piece of tailoring in a 250-gramme "cool wool" worsted.

"The British have a tradition of wearing suits in good beefy cloth," he says. "But the new generation of customer, brought up in jeans and sweatshirt, is reluctant to take to heavy tailoring. It likes the more relaxed feel of a softer jacket and lighter cloth. The Italians have all the expertise to supply it."

Ermeneegildo Zegna, a family business established for 80 years in Trivero, in the foothills of the Italian Alps, claims a 30 per cent share of the international menswear market with a reputation built on the high-performance non-crush qualities of its lightweight suits (Tindari and Whispe) made from tightly-twisted worsted yarns in Australian wool.

Unusual weaves and unexpected colour combinations in stripes and checks are Zegna specialities.

Ready-to-wear clothing was only added to the range in the 1960s, when the founder's sons, Aldo and Angelo, took over on the death of their father.

In addition to their own-label collections, which sell in stores round the world as well as their own shops, Zegna manufactures menswear collections for Gianni Versace, Romeo Gigli, Les Copains and Dunhill. In Novara, they produce silk ties and accessories for Givenchy, Dunhill, Leonard and Memphis. Licensed production is only 25 per cent, however, of Zegna's annual turnover of 400 billion lire (around £180 million).

Like Paul Smith with his new brand of soft British tailoring, the Zegna family is targeting a new generation of men with their Soft collection of more relaxed, but closely colour-matched men's clothes. Anna Zegna, granddaughter of the founder, explains the company's plans for retail expansion: "We always need to give a sharp message to the market. We are always in the right place to respond to the market."



... and a wool/cotton/viscose mix woven jacket worn with cotton shirt and bermuda shorts. All from Emporio Armani

Return to the limelight

Italian film-makers are returning to international prominence, often with neo-realist films which echo the great achievements of the 1950s and 1960s.

Even in their own country Italian films are still made for a minority. Any city film guide shows that there are at least four American films to every Italian one. But *The Last Emperor*, an Italian, British and Chinese co-production directed by Bernardo Bertolucci in 1988, won 11 Oscars, and in 1989, *Cinema Paradiso*, by Giuseppe Tornatore, the young Sicilian director, won the Academy award for best foreign film.

Italian cinema has been suffering from an identity crisis over the past decade. Roberto Silvestri, film critic of the left-wing *Manifesto*, has described it as a dark age of political and censorial repression, a time when Hollywood made money out of films recounting the social upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s, while Italy more or less ostracised them.

Lina Wertmüller, film director and director of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, the main Italian cinema school, calls them years of media sickness. The sickness is still present, she says, caused by the suffocation of television, the lack of finance directed exclusively towards film-making, a surfeit of foreign box office productions, and a general lack of a film-going public.

"Twenty years ago we used to make 200 to 250 films a year, people went to the cinema, and there was a public for every kind of film," she says.

Now the average production is 100 films a year.

The Italian film industry has spent the past decade in decline. There are, however, signs of recovery



Cinema Paradiso: the archetypal Sicilian boyhood

although last year 119 Italian features were made.

There are signs of recovery. Young neo-realists are presenting a no-frills picture of Italian society. Marco Risi's *Muro di Gomma* (*Wall of Rubber*) is the story of the mysterious crash of an Italian plane in the Mediterranean, probably after being hit by a missile, and the fruitless investigations to find the culprit, based on a real crash near the island of Ustica in 1980 which is still being investigated.

Ricky Tognazzi, a young actor-director, recreates the world of soccer violence in *Ultras*, and Daniele Lucchetti has given a true-to-life portrayal of a Yuppie Italian politician elbowing his way to the top in *Il Portaborse* (*The Footman*).

Film-makers are free from the political attachments that were almost obligatory for Italian youth in the 1960s

and 1970s, and have almost gone back to the liberal expression of their cinematic forefathers — Rossellini who took to the streets with the Roman actress, Anna Magnani, in *Rome Open City*, and Vittorio de Sica who brought Italian poverty to the screen in *Bicycle Thieves*.

Signor Tornatore carries out a similar exercise on modern times in *Cinema Paradiso*, a film about the demise of small-town cinema. Gianni Amelio paints a dark picture of society in the Fascist years in *Open Doors*, which was taken from a murder story by Leonardo Sciascia, the Sicilian writer, and was a candidate for the foreign film Oscar this year.

The comedy endemic in Italian cinema is still there, particularly in the mass-appeal special productions which make up much of Italy's output, and Italian comedy actors are working

their way into international recognition.

Nanni Moretti is the odious politician of *The Footman*, but also has a string of quiet social comedies to his name as a director. Having worked his way up from the ranks of small-time directing, he is now something of a father-figure of cinema, directing, producing, acting and, lately, opening his own Roman cinema for uncommercial but worthwhile films, the first being Ken Loach's *Riff-Raff*.

More glory may come to Italian comedy, *Mediteraneo*, a film about an Italian wartime patrol ordered to a far-off Greek island and then abandoned and forgotten, is among the films being considered for a nomination for the next foreign film Oscar. It was made by Gabriele Salvatores, another of Italy's up-and-coming directors.

Young directors still struggle to get their work known. Some come from television, others from cartoons — such as Maurizio Nichetti, a comedian, director and actor who makes films with cartoon characters. Some come from Lina Wertmüller's highly selective film school, Italy's traditional training ground for film-makers since Mussolini's time.

Chances of showing their wares are slim. "Virtually their only chance is appearing in film festivals," says Franco Cauti, who organises the Italian film festival for young film-makers in Rome and the Funny Film Festival, an international comedy film festival which takes place every year in the spa town of Boario, in northern Italy.

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Boy wonder: Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, an Italian, British and Chinese co-production, which won 11 Oscars

Tender loving care turns wine into nectar

The standard of the Italian product has improved immeasurably in the past 15 years, Paul Bompard reports

There was a time, not long ago, when wine which came from outside the "golden triangle" marked out by Piedmont, the Veneto and Tuscany, was viewed with suspicion by Italians who cared for good wine.

Nine out of ten times, this suspicion was justified, in that rarely was wine from Italy outside these three regions produced with the due combination of care, technology and tradition. About 15 years ago, however, a quiet revolution began in the vineyards. Quality and consistency were thought better, and potentially more profitable, than quantity.

This helped to improve many of the wines of the "golden triangle" immeasurably. But the most radical, and often surprising, results have been obtained in regions once known only for cheap wine drunk locally, or for wine used to boost the alcohol level in quality wines from the

nobler (in wine terms) regions.

Today there is hardly a region of Italy, from Sicily to the Alps, which cannot boast at least one quality wine. Often the credit is due to a new generation of vintners who have studied in France or California and then applied the techniques to the family vineyards, often starting from scratch and replanting a particular type of grape.

Antonio Pasolini, a researcher and taster for *Gambero Rosso*, the most authoritative guide of Italy's best wines, says, "Many of today's producers go so far as not to bottle the wine in years when the grapes are not good enough, something which would have been unthinkable only a few years ago."

They have learnt and applied French-type techniques, invested in new stainless steel vats, and many have succeeded in making really excellent red and white wines. At the same time, both the wine-



Bearing fruit: a woman worker during last year's harvest collects grapes in the vineyards of Frascati

dealers and the Italian consumer have matured, and now demand much higher quality.

Two regions which have been particularly affected by this change are the Marche, in central Italy on the Adri-

atic coast, and Campania, the region around Naples on the west coast. In wine-making terms, as well as in other ways, there are vast differences between the two. The Marche have had a dormant but solid wine tradition for

more than 60 years, whereas in Campania the great wines produced today have been created literally from the ground up. In some cases, even the soil has been imported.

The best known of the

Marche reds is Rosso Conero, from the area on and around Monte Conero, near Ancona. The best Conero, according to Signor Paolini, is the Dorico produced by Alessandro Moroder, which is available in Britain.

Another excellent Conero is the Vigneti del Cotto produced by Count Leopardi Dittajoli, a relative of the poet, Giacomo Leopardi.

Vigneti del Cotto is produced by Count Leopardi's 33-year-old son, Piervittorio, one of the new generation of wine producers. "The vineyards have been in the family for generations," Piervittorio Leopardi explains. "But the cellars were bombed during the war."

"About 12 years ago we completely replanted the vines and rebuilt the cellars with the best and latest equipment. For the past nine years we have produced our Rosso Conero which, I believe, has steadily improved. The key is to be humble enough to learn from the masters. In this case the French wine-making techniques have completely transformed our wine."

The Marche are also known for their white wines. Three which *Gambero Rosso* describes as excellent are the San Nicolò, the Villa Bucci verdicchio, and the Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi. Perhaps the most surprising results of Italy's wine revolution have been in Campania, however, and in particular on the island of Ischia. The Bianco della Ischia, produced by the Frassitelli

vineyards, is generally considered the best wine of central and southern Italy, and more than a match for some of the most renowned whites of the north.

Bianco della Ischia was built on the ashes of Casa D'Ambra, an old wine-producer taken over in the early 1980s. The new owners stopped production for several years while they completely renewed both the vineyards, which have a particular type of grape found only on Ischia, and the cellars. Since 1988, Bianco della Ischia has gained recognition among Italy's wine experts.

Other interesting new wines from Campania include La Falanghina, a white from near Benevento, and the red Taurasi, produced by Mastroberardino, a company better known for its white wines.

They are only a few, however, among dozens of good wines in the Marche and Campania, and the hundreds which have appeared in the rest of Italy over the past ten years. The revolution has taken hold, and it will not be long before some of the traditional bad habits of Italian wine production, both outside and inside the "golden triangle", will have ceased.

Changes give banks more flexibility

The Bank of Italy has been relaxing controls and encouraging rationalisation

The ghost of Robert Calvi, who was found hanged under Blackfriars Bridge in 1982, will be laid at last with the opening (expected next year) of Banco Ambrosiano Veneto's first foreign branch, in London.

Banco Ambrosiano, as it is usually known, is successor to the Banco Ambrosiano, which Calvi drove to disaster in what then, before the days of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, took the record for banking scandals.

The Ambrosiano, under the leadership of Giovanni Bazoli, has successfully distanced itself from the old image. It lost no time in emphasising the turn-around by opening its new main entrance on the opposite side of its Milan headquarters.

After several years of consolidation, it has recently become a dynamic actor on the banking scene, absorbing the associated Banca Cattolica del Veneto and, in October, buying the former Banco Centro-Sud, based in Naples, from Citicorp, of the United States.

Now its attention is turning abroad. Ambrosiano is the leading private bank in a sector still dominated by public ownership.

Steps to prepare the public-sector banks, often hamstrung by archaic statutes, for the European single market have been taken by the Amato law (so-called after a former treasury minister), passed a year and a half ago. The banks have been given flexibility to become joint stock companies, and since then, the pot has been bubbling away.

Sanpaolo Bank of Turin has acquired from the treasury control of Credito, an institute for medium-term lending to public authorities. Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (a savings bank) has merged with Banco di Santo Spirito, formerly part of the state-owned Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI). Both are Roman, and the deal was facilitated by the leading Rome politician, Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister.

Banco di Napoli was quick among public banks to take advantage of the Amato law and become a *società per azioni* (joint stock company), offering about 20 per cent of its shares to the public.

These trends have been regarded favourably by the Bank of Italy and its governor, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, whose policy for some years has been to relax domestic controls and encourage rationalisation to meet international competition.

The process is often slow, however. Professor Mario Monti, a leading economist, has pointed out that Italy suffers from coalition govern-

ments as well as from a large public banking sector. So top jobs are filled according to political, rather than professional, merit.

The details of a banking merger or takeover are compounded when coalition party interests come into play. For example, a link has been under debate for months between Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (IMI), a public sector finance institute, and several northern savings banks led by Cariplo of Milan. Cariplo is headed by Roberto Mazzotta, an experienced Christian Democrat, while the other savings banks' heads have various political links.

Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), for years the biggest bank, needs recapitalisation, and possibly new partners, after burning its fingers with unauthorized loans to Iraq. BNL is traditionally a Socialist tie, and the Socialists are reported to favour a link with Banca Commerciale Italiana (Comit) of the IRI group.

Last March, however, Comit drafted a document on collaboration with another big IRI bank, Credito Italiano.

The frontiers are increasingly open to foreigners, but foreign banks have generally fought shy of entering retail banking.

Better prospects are seen in providing more sophisticated financial services. For example Euromobiliare, active in merchant banking, is part of the Midland Bank group.

Since 1990, 31 investors in industry have been offering specialised services to smaller businesses. Abbey National is promoting innovative mortgages for house-buyers. The insurance market has been attracting attention from Lloyds of London and leading British companies.

The stock market is increasingly vulnerable to foreign competition. SEAQ International in London makes a market in 21 big Italian blue chip companies, which between them represent 42 per cent of the Milan Bourse's total capitalisation. This autumn, the volume of trading in these equities has been greater in London than in Milan.

Operators are seriously concerned at losing business to better-organized foreign exchanges. They will, however, have a chance to make up lost ground when their own "Big Bang" comes into force on January 5.

From then, all trading on Italian Bourses will have to go through specially constituted investment companies, or *società di investimento immobiliare* (SIM). The shakeout may prove traumatic, but hopefully not fatal.

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Janet Stobart reports on a famous town's art problems, while Paul Bompard looks at (below) the work of a conservation centre

Crumbling Assisi sends out an SOS

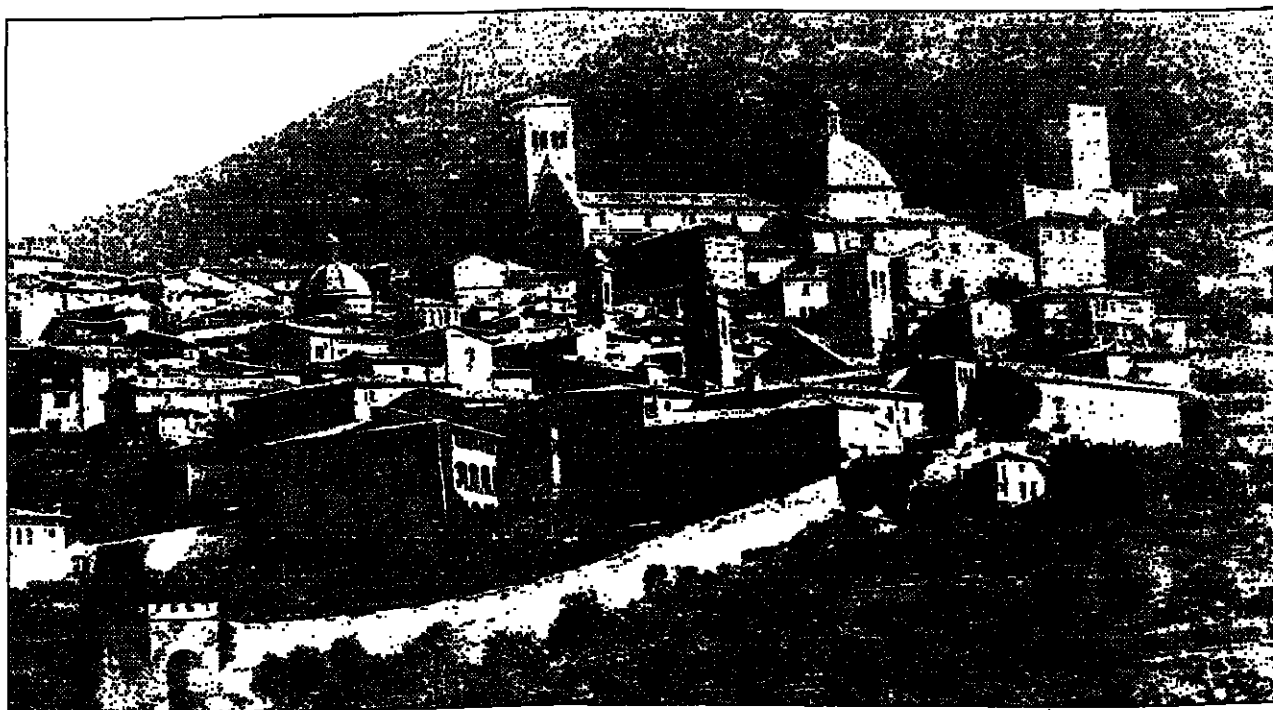
The hilltop town of Assisi, birthplace of St Francis and inspiration to medieval believers in saintly poverty, needs more than £100 million to sustain its churches and castle walls. The town, one of Italy's most popular artistic and religious tourist attractions, which is visited every year by more than four million pilgrims, tourists and art-lovers, is under threat from decay.

Aware of growing damage to their city's medieval architectural treasures — among them the basilica of San Francesco, with its frescos by Giotto, Cimabue, Simone Martini and Pietro Lorenzetti, and the cathedral of San Rufino, a 12th-century structure dedicated to Assisi's original patron saint and further embellished in the 16th century — the Assisi city fathers, Franciscan fathers in this case, have called for help. The Franciscan communi-

nity is the custodian of the principal churches and basilicas as well as the regional superintendent of Umbria's art works. Its appeals went first to Bonifica, a large engineering company and member of Italtat, the state engineering group, which is well-practised in restoration work.

Bonifica has carried out a detailed study of seven of Assisi's main buildings: five churches, the Rocca, or city fortress, and the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage in the woods outside Assisi where St Francis withdrew for solitary meditation and prayer.

The study found that the main causes of decay are damp, which seeps through walls and frescos, sinking foundations due to subsidence of the limestone hillside on which Assisi is perched and, most serious of all, earthquake damage. Assisi is in one of Italy's seismic areas, and was hit by a big



Decaying treasure: damp and earthquake damage are eating away at the buildings and frescos of Assisi, home of St Francis, portrayed (above) in the town's Upper Church

earthquake in 1832. Several minor tremors since then have added partially unseen, but none the less serious damage to foundations and wall structures.

An earthquake in September 1988 caused little visible damage, but is likely to have further cracked the façades, walls and pillars of the five churches so far investigated, while the hermitage is grad-

ually becoming detached from the rock face on to which it was built.

"It is a very serious state of affairs," Mauro Mogenti, one of the architects responsible for the study, says. "For instance, laboratory studies of the basilica of San Francesco show serious lesions, due to damp and seismic damage."

Similar problems face the church and convent of Santa

Chiara, home to the nuns of the order of St Clare and a landmark of late 13th-century architecture with its flying buttresses, rosette window and pinnacled bell-tower. Subsidence threatens the walls of the church and the adjoining convent, which face downhill, as well as the tower, while cracks have appeared in the church façade.

Damage has also been caused by previous attempts at restoration. The roof of Santa Chiara was repaired in the not-so-distant past with reinforced concrete, which is now beginning to crack.

The basilica of San Francesco is virtually two Gothic churches built one on top of the other shortly after the death of St Francis in 1226. Its Giotto frescos include the series in which he

and his pupils depicted the life of St Francis. It also has a particularly striking *Crucifixion* and a *Madonna and Child* by Cimabue, a series of frescos on the life of St Martin by Simone Martini, and scenes of the Passion by Pietro Lorenzetti. They have long shown signs of damage, such as paint flaking off the wall with damp, and cracks which appear with alarming frequency, running through the frescos.

The study recommends reinforcing the walls behind the frescos, and putting steel girders inside the lateral walls to act as shock absorbers in the event of further earthquakes.

Three miles outside Assisi, the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli was built in the 16th century over the chapel where St Francis preached his first sermon and where he died. Radical restoration in 1925, including a new façade, to repair earthquake damage from the previous century, left the church with uneven foundations and its pillars out of kilter. The new

facade is gradually detaching itself from the damaged original underneath.

The study, which covers a fairly sizeable sample of Assisi's cultural heritage, has so far been done at the expense of Bonifica. "However, we need funding from as many sources as possible," says Massimo Ostilio, an executive at Bonifica involved in restoration projects. "The work involved in restoring the town could run to anything from 100 to 300 billion lire (£50 million to £150 million)."

In the search for sponsors, national or international, state or private, Bonifica and Infra Sud, the two companies that would be involved in the Assisi project, explained their conclusions to an international audience in Assisi last month.

Restorers go to Rome to learn skills

The Palazzo San Michele is a vast, early 18th-century building overlooking the Tiber in the Trastevere section of Rome. When it was built, the 300-year-old palace was used as a refuge for the poor and old of the city, and later became a place of detention for adolescent criminals.

Given the magnificence of the architecture — a clean, light, functional baroque — it is difficult not to feel that modern-day institutional architecture has not always been an improvement.

Part of the San Michele is today used by the ministry of culture, and it was there that the bronze equestrian statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, which for centuries dominated Rome from the Capitol, was restored. A large section of the building is occupied by the International Centre for the Study of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (Iccrom), an agency created in 1960 under the patronage of Unesco.

"We have a permanent staff of about 35 people of all nationalities," says Marie Christine Ugniet, the director of the Iccrom archives and library. "Then there are any number of visiting specialists, many of them from the Central Restoration Institute in Rome, but also from other parts of Italy and abroad."

Every year, about 70 restorers, art historians and architects go to Iccrom to take courses on restoration and conservation. Elisabetta Briceño, from Caracas, Venezuela, is one of this year's students. "I already work as an architect and restorer," she says, "but this year I decided to come to Iccrom for a course on new techniques of restoration. We also have lectures by lawyers and management experts on the legal and administrative problems involved in a restoration project."

One of the advantages enjoyed by Iccrom is that much of the research that goes on at the Central Restoration Institute, one of the world's most important centres in this field, spills over into its courses. Another is that, thanks to its close ties with the ministry of culture, students from other countries can actually work on

historic objects, buildings and materials that in their own country might not be extremely rare.

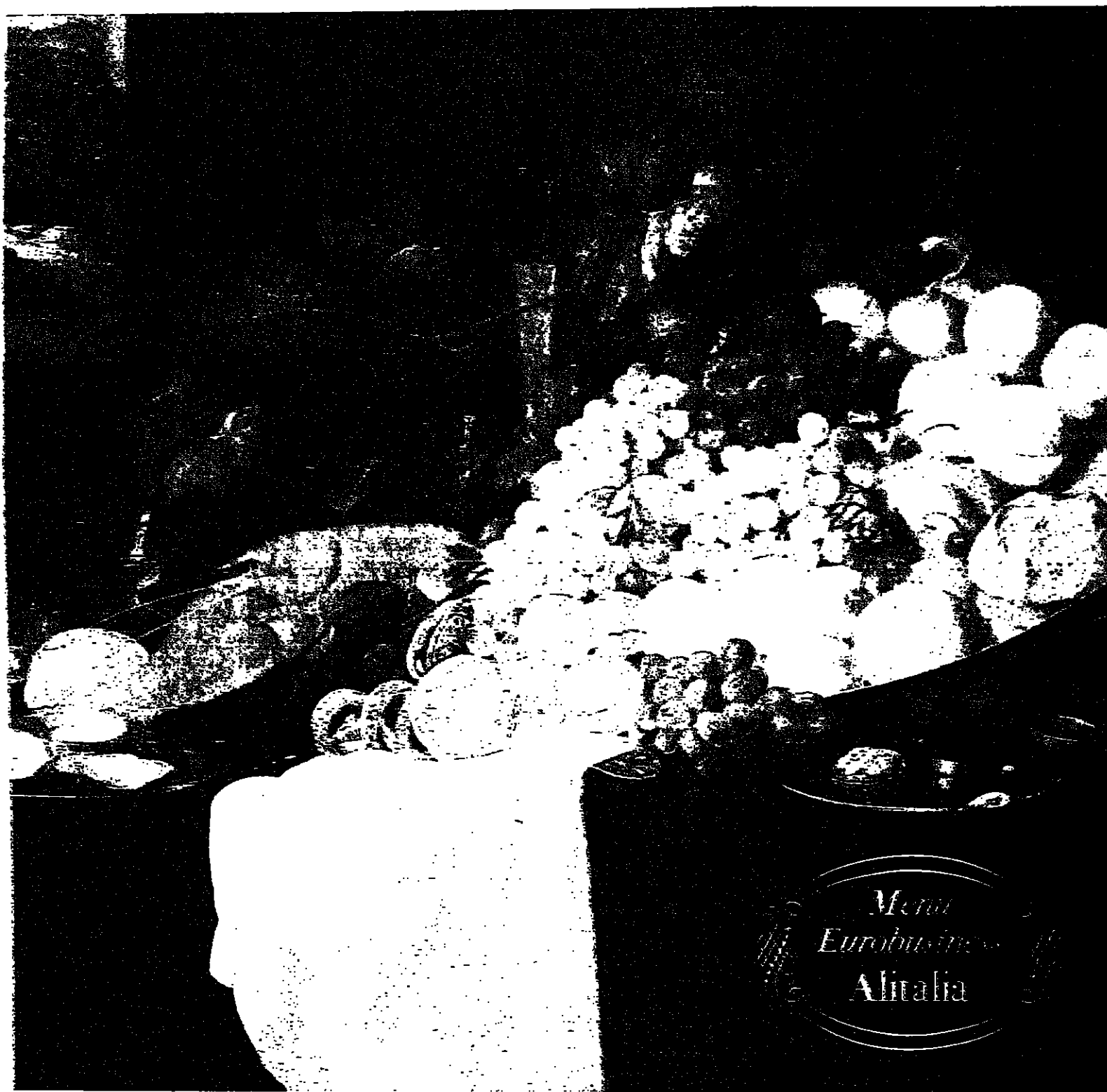
The three basic courses taught every year are on architectural conservation, mural paintings, and principles of conservation. This year there is also a course aimed at African museums and their particular problems, and another on the restoration and conservation of mud-brick or wattle earth architecture. A course on the peculiar problems and types of conservation of Australasia has been planned for next year.

Over the past 30 years, Iccrom has also built up an impressive library. "We believe we have the most comprehensive single library and archive of this type in the world," says Madame Ugniet. "It covers virtually everything published on what we call both movable and immovable historic objects. In other words, everything from antique jewellery to the Colosseum."

In 1977, Iccrom set up a computerised data bank on conservation. In 1987, thanks to sponsorship by the F.P. Getty Trust in the United States, this data bank was linked up in an international network. The subscribers are generally universities and museums, but any private individual can also subscribe. Subscribers include the conservation unit of the Museums and Galleries Commission in London.

Iccrom is mainly funded by its member states, which now number 82. To be a member, a nation must be a part of Unesco, and the annual contribution is one per cent of the member's Unesco contribution, which in turn is calculated on a country's Gross National Product. Financing by private institutions or specific national bodies is also quite frequent.

Iccrom is controlled by a general assembly of representatives of the member countries, which meets every two years to approve the budget and programme. The actual running of the centre is left in the hands of its permanent staff of art historians, architects, restorers and administrators.



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Christopher Warman on 'Byzantine' repossession plans being mooted while houses are bringing in huge rents

The government initiative to let repossession of properties to the homeless has caused dismay to the market. Although the recession has caused a slump in the sales market, the letting market during the past two years has been comparatively healthy.

The Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) describes the government scheme, announced earlier this month, as "Byzantine and ill-conceived", arguing that it moves one set of homeless people to displace others, making them homeless in turn. ARLA says: "It fails to solve the problems created by the housing market while the problem of tenants occupying properties which are then repossessed is not addressed at all. This adds to the pile of human misery."

Judith Wood, the association's chairman, says that building societies and other lenders should allow mortgagees who cannot meet repayments to stay where they are, paying rent. When the situation improves, they can buy their properties again.

Neville Lee, an association council member, says that there is already a large amount of property for letting, and the government's move could force a drop in market rents.

ARLA is also worried that good tenants are being penalised, and thrown out, as landlords allow their property to be repossessed over their heads. Tenants should be allowed to stay until the end of their term, but pay the rent direct to the lender, it suggests.

These arguments refer to the wider South-East and the rest of the country, but not the prime areas of London, where the best furnished properties are still fetching high prices. The contrast between the sales and letting markets is illustrated by the case of a four-bedroom Victorian house in Wimbledon. A house that failed to sell at £325,000 has now been let at £1,950 a month.

The same agent, John D. Wood, let a flat in a converted school for



Rental successes in Kensington: above, seven-bedroom style at £4,500 a week, and a three-bedroom house at £850 a week

£800 a month after it failed to sell. With the letting market in the ascendancy, Aylesford & Co has found a great shortage of properties in the £400 to £800 a week range in London. When good examples become available, it says, they are often let immediately. "Many vendors," Aylesford says, "have decided to let their properties while they wait to see what happens with the sales market." Most of Aylesford's landlords at present own their rental properties as a long-term investment, but a significant proportion,



17 per cent, is letting because the properties cannot be sold. Both Aylesford, and Bernard Marcus, whose managing director, Robin Paterson, reports strong interest from the overseas investment purchaser, in particular people from Hong Kong and British expatriates. They are attracted by the high quality of new developments in central London.

Ironsides, a rentals agency in Knightsbridge, reports growing demand for high-quality property, and corporate tenants are now demanding a proper management

MARKET MOVES

Literary memories

THE 16th-century house, Ladyham, at Burford, Oxfordshire, once the home of the late Sir Compton Mackenzie, the author of *Whisky Galore*, has been occupied since it was built by the Sylvester family. Now it is for sale at £875,000 through Jackson-Stops & Staffs, Burford.

Sir Compton first rented half the house in 1904 for £14 10s a year, then bought the other half for £1,400, restoring it to one property, an experience recounted in his book, *Guy and Pauline*.

The Grade II listed house, bearing a date stone of 1583 but with an 18th-century facade, is set in 20 acres, and has trout fishing in the River Windrush. The restored house has six bedrooms, and its coach house has been converted to a flat.

THE 17th-century Mill House at Grantchester, Cambridgeshire, overlooks the mill pond with a view that has changed little since 1912, when Rupert Brooke wrote of its charms in the poem about the Old Vicarage next door.

Set in an acre, the house, with five main bedrooms and three reception rooms is for sale with a guide price of £475,000 through Bidwells of Cambridge.

ANOTHER mill, a 14th-century converted corn mill in around five acres near Totnes, Devon, is for sale. The property is within rambling distance of Totnes, says the agent, Stags, which is asking £235,000 for the 99-year lease. The house includes three reception rooms, a main bedroom, and three other bedrooms. Outbuildings include two stone barns.

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The Observer and *The Guardian* claimed £212,430.28 and *The Sunday Times* £224,340.67. The Court awarded the applicants in each action £100,000.

Court of Appeal

Unjust enrichment enquiry

Nuttall, Bideford.

Tanya Amir, Barnet, London; N H Arora, Birmingham; Animashaun, Earls Court, London; C I Atkinson, London; Ferguson, Dunstable, Bedfordshire; Kwai-Ming Wong, Singapore; M Mallik, London; Ealing, London; J Rayner, Leamington.

[illegible]

Montgomery's mission

A golfer in search of a global reputation

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

COLIN Montgomery launches what he hopes will become a truly international career when he tees up in the Australian Open on the Royal Melbourne course here tomorrow.

Montgomery is eager to further his golfing education after an outstanding year in which he won a place in the European Ryder Cup team for the first time. He believes that to win an international reputation he will need to play in all parts of the world rather than confine himself to the European Tour.

"I'm putting out feelers for invitations to several American tournaments next year," Montgomery said. "I see playing round the world as part of my learning process. I want to cast the net wider and improve all facets of my game. You can learn so much more by travelling the world because it means you play on a variety of courses. Royal Melbourne is a good example because I learned, when I played here in the World Cup in 1988, what an examining golf course it is."

Montgomery had a hectic schedule in Europe in 1991. He played in 27 tournaments, won the Scandinavian Masters, finished second in the Carrolls Irish Open and lost a play-off to Severiano Ballesteros for the Volvo PGA championship.

He finished fourth in the Volvo Order of Merit, which means that he might not get the chance to fulfil an ambition by playing in the Masters at Augusta next year. "I will just have to wait to see if I get an invitation," he said.

"I do know that in the past only the top three in our Order of Merit have been invited other than those from

Europe who are already exempt."

A victory in Australia would strengthen his case, and he is approaching the championship in a good frame of mind. He has had two weeks' holiday on Hamilton Island, off the Queensland coast, since helping Europe to win the Four Tours tournament at Royal Adelaide. "I needed the rest," Montgomery said.

Montgomery has a reputation for not always remaining in control of his emotions on the golf course. In a recent letter to *The Times*, he was castigated by a reader for his actions during the World Cup in Rome.

The reader stressed that he hoped that peer group pressure could prevail and that his fellow professionals would persuade him "either to stop throwing his teddy from the pram or to adopt a job more suited to his temperament like, perhaps, bull fighting".

In fact, Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, did take Montgomery aside before the Volvo PGA championship in May to point out to him the importance of staying in control. "We had a long chat, and Ken explained that I had reached the stage where I was in the public eye and I needed to think a little more about where Colin Montgomery is going," Montgomery said.

"I probably have got down on myself more than I should have done. I have got a hot temper; I do get angry. It's brought on by the game, but it's also in me. I have a tremendous will to do well and when things don't go well then I start blaming myself. But I definitely play my best golf when I'm relaxed."



Moving image: Deuchar in action yesterday, when he won in straight sets to reach the quarter-finals of the British open championship at the Queen's Club

Howell hits fine form to overcome the odds

By SALLY JONES

JONATHAN Howell, the Oratory School professional, produced the biggest upset of his career when he defeated the world No. 1 amateur, Julian Snow, at the Queen's Club to reach the quarter-final today of the British open real tennis championship and set up a fascinating match against the world rackets champion, James Male.

Howell, aged 32, whose form slumped alarmingly last season, when he took over at the Oratory, was unseeded this year for the first time and victory for Snow had looked a formality.

Howell, however, had other ideas, and, after working hard with Mike Johnson, the trainer of the world squash champion, Rodney Martin, he started the match in superb shape.

With nothing to lose, he

went for his shots, hitting a string of winners on the backhand and finding the grill against an opponent who must have wondered what had hit him. He won in four sets, after holding off three set points in the third.

In another second round match in the George Wimpey-sponsored tournament, the promising Leamington professional, Mark Devine, extended the favourite and world No. 1 Lachlan Deuchar, with a fighting display, only just failing to take a set. Devine went for his shots, refusing to be intimidated by Deuchar's formidable reputation and fine retrieving.

Another seeded player, Mike Gooding, lived dangerously, coming two points from defeat against Colin Lumley before finally asserting his more powerful floor game.

Snow, whose other great



Deuchar: extended

passion in life is gambling, had looked a possible winner of the event. He had won both the amateur championship and the Hayman Island Classic, as well as running Deuchar close in the Laureate-Perrier Masters in September.

Six months ago, he took a

sabbatical from his job as a bond futures dealer to polish his game, thanks to high earnings, judicious backing of the 1,000 Guineas winner, Shadyad, and a series of lucrative wagers on his own matches.

Despite his own loss, after a series of uncharacteristic errors, Snow may still finish the week ahead, financially at least. He is making a book on the Open and although Deuchar remains a heavy favourite at 3-1 on, Howell's odds are shortened rapidly from 100-1. Snow has already taken several hundred pounds in bets and has compiled the odds for a reputable bookmaker. He expects that hundreds of other aficionados of real tennis, traditionally a gambling game, will also have a flutter.

Howell is delighted at his sudden return to form and admits that after the hard

work and responsibility of setting up the Oratory court last season, he has been concentrating more on his game and is feeling more positive.

His previous best victory was in 1987, when he beat Deuchar to reach the final of the United States open championship, and he will be highly motivated this evening, when he meets Male, who himself has something to prove after a loss of form this season. Male, aged 27, was introduced to the game at Radley College by the rackets professional, Mick Dean, and his unorthodox double-fisted style and superb athleticism have made him a difficult competitor to beat.

Snow's defeat leaves the bottom half of the draw wide open, increasing the chances of the charismatic young Australian, Robert Fahey, seeded third, who

beat Snow and the former world champion, Chris Ronaldson, on the way to the final of the French Open in September. Several of the other leading players are also capable of an upset. Ronaldson is still a superb tactician, while the Petworth professional, Chris Bray, has the power and mobility to beat anyone on his day.

With unparalleled television coverage of the Open, and growing interest in the sport, the game is moving. The organisers are already reporting full houses for several of the sessions and even the upper gallery, giving a bird's eye view of the action, will be full for the singles final, on Sunday.

RESULTS: Second round: C Ronaldson bt F White, 6-5, 6-2; L Deuchar bt M Devine, 6-4, 6-5, 6-4; J Male bt A Phillips, 6-3, 6-6, 6-4; S M Gooding bt C Lumley, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; J Howell bt J Snow, 6-4, 6-5, 6-3.

Daly develops a yen for Japan

By PATRICIA DAVIES

THIS week in Japan, Severiano Ballesteros, the European No. 1, has played in an exhibition match with Corey Pavin, his counterpart in the United States. Tom Watson and Isao Aoki.

At the same time, Sandy Lyle played in a television match featuring Scott Simpson, Craig Stadler and a leading Japanese player.

John Daly, the US PGA champion, appeared in television games on his first visit to Japan and his picture, or cartoon likeness, was plastered over newspapers and magazines.

The prize-money in the Dunlop Phoenix event was

200 million yen (£870,000) and it was small wonder that Daly was keen to come back to this golf-crazy country.

"I'm glad I could participate in this great tournament," he said. "The atmosphere, the course, the people, I love them all. I want to come back and play a lot better next year." He and his manager now know that while the on-course earnings are huge, the off-course earning-potential requires special calculators designed to cope with long lines of zeros.

In Europe, only the Open Championship prize-fund of £900,000 surpassed the Dunlop, and in the States barely a handful of events bettered it. No wonder Roger MacKay, the Australian, is getting a little nervous at the thought of topping the Japanese order of merit.

MacKay has earned ¥109,900,135 (£478,000) and leads Tommy Nakajima by nearly ¥10 million with three tournaments left, the biggest the Casio this week at about £625,000. MacKay has opted to play in the hope of clinching top spot and with it a potential Dunlop bonus of ¥70 million. How much is that? Too much for me. My head hurts.



Daly: big impression

Wilson helps secure deal

By CRAIG LORD

THE success of Ian Wilson at both the world and European championships this year has acted as a catalyst for a £500,000 tripartite agreement on the use of pool facilities that could safeguard the future of competitive swimming in Sunderland.

The case sets a shining example of how local authorities, education bodies and the Sports Council can work together to allow sport and recreation to co-exist under competitive tendering legislation.

At present, the Borough of Sunderland swimming club

makes use of two or three lanes at the Newcastle Road pool, with the rest of the facility open to the public. With Wilson in a class of his own — he finished fourth in the world at 1,500 metres freestyle — and needing a lane to himself, the other squad members struggle for space.

Despite those difficulties, the public still complains that it has to share facilities with swimming clubs, says Irene Lucas, Sunderland's deputy director of leisure services.

Under the new deal, the borough and Sunderland

Polytechnic, with £45,000 of help from the Sports Council, will fund the refurbishment and upgrading from 25 yards to 25 metres of the Polytechnic's pool. The pool will act as a centre of excellence.

Kerry Shacklock heads the 1992 Silkeborg Great Britain synchronised swimming team.

TEAM: A. Davenport (Wales), M. Everage (Bristol Central), L. Figue (Bristol Central), C. Geller (Hampshire Borough), N. Haynes (Bristol Central), K. MacAndrew (Hampshire Borough), L. Rutter (Reading Royals), R. Scates (Rushmore), K. Shacklock (Rushmore), L. Siddons (Bristol Central), K. Thompson (Bristol Central), L. Vaid (Rushmore).

TABLE TENNIS

Chinese calling Chen to account

By RICHARD EATON

CHINA is vetoing Chen Xinhua's attempt to challenge for a medal at the Olympic Games next year. By then, the Yorkshire-based player should have a British passport and will have been representing England for more than two years, but a new Olympic rule almost certainly gives his former country the power to stop him playing in Barcelona.

The new rule says a player must wait for three years after gaining his new passport un-

less both countries involved (and the sport's governing body and the IOC executive committee) agree. The Chinese Olympic Committee, worried about the departure of several hundreds of players and coaches in recent years, has said it does not wish such an agreement.

It would be a significant blow for the British to lose Chen, who only on Monday night beat the world champion, Jorgen Persson, to reach the Ponds Cup semi-finals

in Copenhagen. "I discussed the matter with the vice-president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, Li Furong, and he said a change of heart is difficult but not impossible," Alan Ransome, the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, said.

Chris Oldfield, the England No. 6, who suffered head injuries in a crash involving four cars on Sunday night, was yesterday taken out of intensive care at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

RACKETS

Young players are poised to mount title challenge

By SALLY JONES

THE British amateur championship starts this week at Queen's Club, London, with the old guard of Willie Boone and John Renn, both former world champions, under threat from a rising generation which has suddenly come of age. Despite the absence of the world champion, James Male, who is concentrating on real tennis, the event, sponsored by Lacoste, promises some fascinating confrontations.

Spearinghead the youthful challenge are three players in their early twenties, all of whom have produced their best play since leaving school: Mark Hue Williams, Tim Cockcroft and Simon Davies, seeded third, fourth, and fifth, respectively.

Mark, the son of the former amateur champion, Charles Hue Williams, won the British under-24 championship two years ago and recently played almost faultlessly as he and his Ettonian partner, Boone, retained the Noel Bruce public school old boys' championship.

Hue Williams's likely semi-final against Prent, seeded second, looks intriguing as Hue Williams, a tall left-hander, has been working hard on his game, while pressure of work has left Prent

short of match practice.

Cockcroft, an Old Wellingtonian and now a City stockbroker, is the under-24 champion. His friend and rival, Simon Davies, recently won the Manchester Gold Racket, beating his old Tonbridge partner, Owen Browne, in the final, and believes that the present crop of young players have spurred one another on.

"There are a lot of us all around the same level; Tim, Mark, me and Rupert, all living on the doorstep of Queen's plus the Marlburians, Ally Robinson, who has been at Oxford, and Guy Barker, who played a lot during his time at Durham and

is now back on the scene," he said.

While Davies and his contemporaries are on the brink of a breakthrough, a more recent vintage of schoolboy players is waiting in the wings. The final of the national public school doubles championship, last season, where Matthew Windows, the outstanding player of his generation, combined with Justin Crane to defeat the talented Ettonians, Alexander Smith-Bingham and Jonathan Larken, showed that, despite a host of external pressures, the game is flourishing in the public schools.

Although rackets, the forerunner of squash, is the fastest racket game in the world, a decade ago many feared that, because of its minority status, it would decline. Instead, many of the school professionals are reporting an upsurge in interest, with adult evening clubs at public schools swelling numbers.

Norwood Cripps, the Eton professional, found just 30 boys in the rackets club when he arrived 12 years ago. Now, numbers range from 80 to 100, and Smith-Bingham, who comes from a rackets-playing dynasty, is one of the most talented players he has ever coached.



Boone: faces challenge

SQUASH RACKETS

Frenz plays a decisive role

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

NORTH Walsham, the Norfolk club which lost its first string at the start of the season when Rodney Martin, the world champion, suffered a foot injury, achieved its first win in the Pimm's Premier League this week by using its foreign card to strengthen the bottom of the order.

Led by Chris Walker, the England No. 4, North Walsham defeated Lynce Surtbos 3-1 with Simon Frenz, Germany, winning 9-0, 9-1, 4-9, 9-6 against Nigel Stiles at fourth string.

Frenz, aged 20, is the German No. 2 and has recently begun to break into the main draws on the world tour. He plays behind Walker for the Kiel Boosters in the German

Bundesliga and, earlier this month, defeated Simon Parke for a second round place in the Kiel Open.

There are other Germans, Finns, Swedes, Dutchmen or Frenchmen who might usefully break up the pattern in which Rodney Eyles, of Australia, this week led Mostae Priory to 4-0 victory over Adidas Northern and Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, led L & P Lamb to a similar victory over A & P Rackets.

Chris Robertson, of Australia, defeated Ross Norman, of New Zealand, 9-1, 9-2, 9-1 to ensure a 2-2 draw for his Cardiff Wizards squad at Cannons Club, London, but needed the defiance of Peter Marshall and Paul Carter, of

England, in the middle order to claim a 4-3 points advantage under the new Pimm's countback rule.

While Adrian Davies took the only genuine Welsh points by beating Tony Hands comprehensively at fourth string, it was the third game, clawed away from Del Harris by Marshall, and the fourth game, dragged back from 8-1 down by Carter against Mark Madean, that brought the Cardiff squad within a point of Lamb at the head of the league table.

PIMM'S PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: North Walsham 5, Lynce Surtbos 1, L & P Lamb 4, A & P Rackets 0, Mostae Priory 4, Adidas Northern 2, Vasey Cannons 2, Leazes Wizards 2. League points: 1, Lamb, 17; 2, Widdow, 16; 3, Cannons, 14; 4, Priory, 12; 5, North Walsham, 8; 6, Rackets, 6; 7, Surtbos, 1; 8, Northern, 1.

CCPR hopes to keep sport out of court

A SCHEME to keep serious sporting disputes out of the courts will be put to the annual conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which starts in Bournemouth today.

The CCPR is suggesting to governing bodies that an arbitration council to settle differences and avoid costly legal action should be set up.

Its president, the Duke of Edinburgh, floated the idea earlier this month when he met players — including the England rugby union captain, Will Carling — managers and officials to push a "fair-play" charter.

The three-day conference will also debate the implications for sport amid the changing face of Europe, and discuss sport in schools.

BRIDGE

Series offers a chance to press team claims

By ALBERT DORMER

THERE are no surprises in England's line-up for the home international series, which has just been announced, but it does contain clues to selection for the forthcoming world team tournament in Italy.

Richard Fleet and Steve Lodge have been awarded two Camrose Trophy matches, an indication of the pair's potential. Their successful trials team-mates, Barry Rigal and Peter Czerniewski, are awarded only one match.

One other pair has been doubly selected, John Armstrong and Graham Kirby, who are exempted from the trials by virtue of their strong

performances in the world championships. Also selected for one match are Forrester and Robson, Smolski and Sowter, Horton and Winter and Crook and Stevens.

Scotland, the only country to beat England in the Camrose Trophy series, has chosen three experienced pairs for its first match. They are Silverstone and Forbes, Steel and Shenkin and Outreal and Vi Mitchell.

In Llangollen, the British Bridge League Swiss teams' event was won by David Stevenson and Bill Nicol, of Lancashire, with the Londoners, Ian Pagan and Jeremy Dhondy.

NETBALL

Broomhead starts her England assignment

By LOUISE TAYLOR

LIZ Broomhead undertakes her first task as England senior coach, this weekend when she supervises open trials for the national squad. Broomhead, who succeeds Betty Galsworthy, will be at the Stockland Green leisure centre in Birmingham on Saturday and Sunday to select a squad of 20 from 65 hopefuls.

Representing the cream of England's county and regional players, their number will be pared down to 30 for final trials on Sunday. The remaining 20 will form the nucleus of the squad to contest home internationals against Scotland and Wales in February and March, a

three-match series against New Zealand next November and the World Games in The Netherlands in 1993.

The places vacated by the retirement of Joan Bryan, a goalscorer, and Jesslyn Parkes, a goalkeeper, will be up for grabs this weekend.

After rejecting the idea of a national clubs league earlier this year, the executive of the All England Netball Association (AENA) is to think again at its next meeting, in January.

Liz Nicholl, the AENA's chief executive, said: "We had so much reaction to our decision to abandon the idea from clubs and players that we are going to reconsider."

RUGBY UNION

Burnell called in to face students at Grange Road

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Burnell, the Scotland tight-head prop, will bring to nine the number of internationals who turn out for Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV at Grange Road today for the annual encounter with Cambridge University — one of the few unchanging dates in an ever-changing student calendar.

Where once Cambridge and Oxford led the way in developments to the domestic game, they have had to adjust to the competitive club structure which has wrought havoc with traditional fixtures. They will continue to do so while the Courage Clubs Championship continues to evolve, though it may be argued that Cambridge, thus far, have had the better of the deal.

Their club fixtures remain meaningful — their heaviest defeats this term, for example, were against Leicester and Northampton, sides at something close to full strength. Like Oxford, there are more student opponents than used to be the case, including Loughborough University, whom they beat on Saturday by fewer points than was advertised (25-10, rather than 30-10).

So they come to the penultimate game before the University match, on December 10, (an additional fixture with Sheffield has been arranged

for Saturday) with a record of won six, lost eight, but having won the last six games against today's guest XV, Steele-Bodger, whose ability to attract good players has been enhanced by the match sponsorship of the Japanese finance house, Nomura, denies that he has selected a stronger team than usual in an attempt to break that run.

Only Ian Hunter, the Northampton full back, has not played international rugby and he has toured with England. The Cambridge public will enjoy watching Ivan Francescisco, the Italian scrum half who scored such a glorious try against the United States at Otley in October, while the pack, where Burnell replaces the injured Wasps prop, Gary Holmes, includes

Mike Barry, whose presence at Old Gravesendians masks the fact that he is hooker and captain of North Auckland. His grandfather and father were both All Blacks.

Cambridge have been able to play with some style this term too, if Tony Underwood's haul of 16 tries from 12 matches is anything to go by. The younger Underwood, secretary this term, has recovered the dash and sparkle which an unhappy 1990 seemed to have erased.

M R STEELE-BODGER'S XV: I Hunter (Northampton), F Clough (Worcestershire), C Innes (Bedford and New Zealand), W Little (Rugby and New Zealand), S Halliday (Leicestershire and England), D Dominguez (Italy and Italy), I Francescisco (Italy and Italy), M Llewellyn (Macclesfield and England), M Barry (Old Gravesendians), P Burnell (London Scottish and Scotland), D Pugh (London Irish), N Edwards (Leicestershire), M Bayfield (Northampton and England), S Back (Leicester), R Poot-Jones (Bristol).

Rees joins Merignac

Paris — Gareth Rees, the Canadian stand-off half, has signed for the French club, Merignac. He is the third foreign player from the recent World Cup to move to France this month, following his countryman, Scott Stewart, a full back, who joined Dax, and Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, who will play for Toulouse. (Reuters)

Alan Davies, the Glamorgan Wanderers coach, has

resigned after just four months, saying he has been unable to devote enough time to the job.

□ Steele Lewis, the Pontypridd captain, has shelved plans to join Swansea, after being banned for three weeks. □ Iestyn Lewis, the Bath and Wales under-21 centre, is set to join Mike Whiston, the Neath lock, and Matthew Kehoe, the Newbridge centre, in joining Newport.

McGeechan opts to stay as coach

BY ALAN LORIMER

IAN McGeechan, the Scotland coach, has agreed to continue in his post for the remainder of the season. There had been some doubt over his future, caused when he asked for time to consider his situation after the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) reappointed him for a further season.

Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, confirmed yesterday that McGeechan would be continuing, and said: "Naturally the SRU is delighted at his decision to stay on."

McGeechan will be in charge of the Scotland squad until the end of the five nations' championship, but that would not rule out the possibility of him being the coach

on the Scottish tour to Australia in June. Normally, separate appointments are made for tours, but the overriding factor for McGeechan may well be his career.

Last January, McGeechan resigned from his teaching post in Leeds to join Scottish Life on a 18-month contract as a public relations manager, a post which gave him time to fulfil his coaching duties. Yesterday, Malcolm Murray, the chief general manager of Scottish Life, said: "Ian has fitted in well with our company, but at this stage I cannot confirm whether he will definitely join us on a permanent basis."

"I would say that there is a 50-50 chance of him staying with Scottish Life, but, of course, a lot will depend on his own ideas about his future career path."

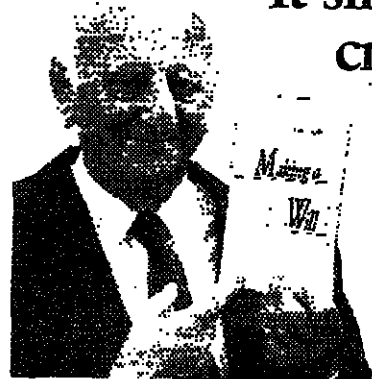
The first important task facing McGeechan will be preparing the Scotland squad for its opening five nations' championship match, against England, at Murrayfield on January 18.

Before then, he is likely to have an involvement in the Scotland A side which plays Spain at Murrayfield on December 28, with the Scotland B team facing Ireland B in the second half of a double header.



McGeechan: doubts

"It simply isn't cricket not to make a Will."



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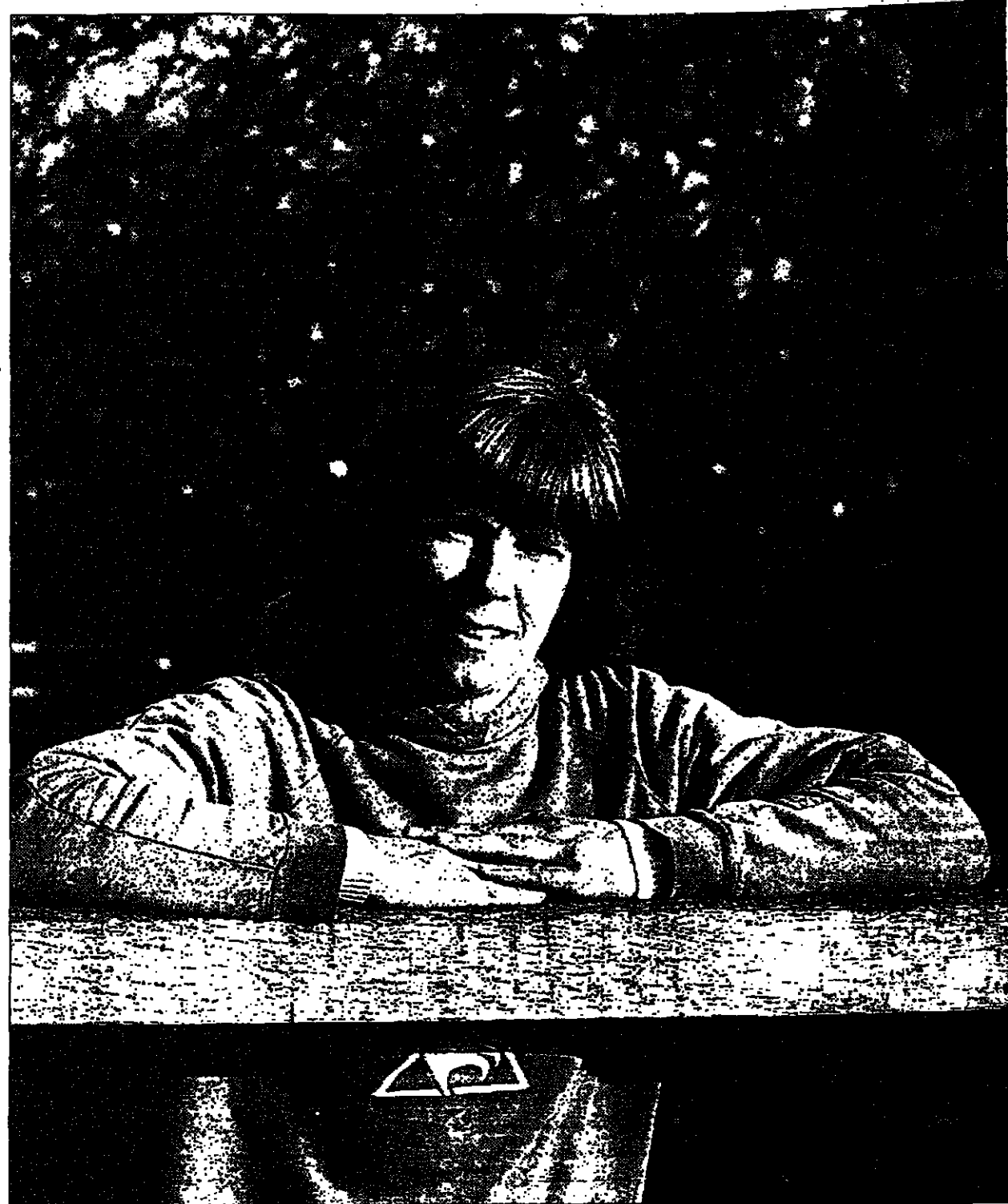
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Skier's serenity: Galica relaxes at her home, far removed from racing at 100mph down a mountain

Galica's quest gathers pace

BY ALIX RAMSAY

"I've always been a competitor. Nobody debriefed me so I keep doing it."

It is 20 years since Divina Galica last competed in the Winter Olympics. Then she was an Alpine skier. Today, at the age of 47, she has been named in Britain's team for the demonstration sport of speed skiing in Albertville.

Clad in skin-tight bodysuits, strangely shaped aerodynamic helmets and perched in eight-foot long skis, the competitors are searching for the fastest route down the mountain. Racing over a one-kilometre track, they can reach speeds of more than 110mph, and are timed over a 100-metre section of the course.

"It's like a high-speed free fall down the mountain on skis," Galica said. She described speed skiing as "frightening, awesome and spectacular, but not particularly dangerous; apparently, it hurts only if you fall."

"And in eight years I've never fallen yet," she said. "The descent takes around 20 seconds, but once through the starting gate it can seem a great deal longer," Galica said. "We accelerate very fast, reaching 100mph in less than six seconds. Initially, you are trying to get your body shape as aerodynamic as possible. Your legs are working like shock absorbers, while your body is taking a pounding from the wind as you pick up speed and you are hoping like hell it will end soon."

Galica is the oldest of the 16 women from round the world competing in the event at the Olympics, not that she regards age as having anything to do with ability. After three Olympics in the Alpine events in the Sixties and Seventies, with a best placing of fifth, she is keen to put herself through the rigours of competition again in pursuit of a medal.

"If you are a skier, you are always looking for another extreme to test your ability to the limit," she said. "Speed skiing is not difficult to do but it is difficult to do well, and I found it challenged my whole being — my ability and my nerve — which, I suppose, is the whole nature of sport. I'd love a medal, but that is only part of it, and I do have a one-in-16 chance of winning."

Galica, it seems, has a taste for high-speed action. In the two decades since she was last at the Olympics, she has had a successful career in motor sport. She races in a Formula Vauxhall Lotus and next week is off to Colombia to compete in a six-hour race. "Motor racing and skiing are very alike," she said. "The way cars go round corners is the same way you would take a corner in the slalom. You balance the car as you would your skis. In both, you have to think rapidly while going at great speed. The car, like your skis, is just an extension of your body."

Galica's best ranking in speed skiing was eighth, but that was before she dropped out of competition a couple of seasons ago to nurse her mother. She is now bottom of the world rankings, a fact she thinks will work in her favour in France. "On the first day of racing I will run last," she said. "That could be good for me as the track will be running fast by then. Still, I know I've got a lot of work to do between now and February."

If speed skiing becomes a full medal sport, Galica has not ruled out the possibility of competing in the 1994 Olympics. But first there is Albertville. "If someone had told me 20 years ago, I would be competing in this Olympics, I'd have thought they were joking," she said. "It will be quite moving in a way, it will take me back to being a kid."

The other members of the British team are Fiona Thomson, Mark Foschi, Graham Wilkie, Stuart Wilkie and Donnah Cornish.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Auction holds wide appeal

BY JANE WYATT

IF THE prospect of receiving a rugby ball signed by the England World Cup team or Sandy Lyle's sun visor would make this the best Christmas ever for a sports' lover in the family, then a visit to Philips in London on Sunday could solve some problems.

The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation is holding a public "celebrity auction" as part of a £200,000 appeal to send 100 of the top British wheelchair athletes to the Barcelona Paralympics in September.

The foundation hopes to raise more than £6,000 from the sale of 70 lots, many of which have a sporting connection.

One of the lots is a parachute jump with the Red Devils, some of whom will be

present at the auction, which starts at 5.30pm. The less daring may prefer to achieve a more vicarious thrill by bidding for Stirling Moss's racing gloves.

Tennis fans might relish a match at Queen's with Britain's best Wimbledon hope for many a day, Nick Brown, or perhaps magic lessons with Paul Daniels might prove a better career prospect.

If none of these novelties inspires, there is always a three-litre bottle of whisky to help forget Christmas altogether.

The seven-member British wheelchair fencing team failed to win a gold medal for the first time in any leading competition during the European wheelchair fencing

championships at Malle in Belgium.

They could not break through the domination of the French, who returned with a vengeance after a brief, recent slump, to take nine of the 12 gold medals.

Despite the British disappointment, the women's team of Alison Hopkins, from Glasgow, Susanah Rock, from Arkwright, and Caz Walton, from London, took silver in the team epee and bronze in the team foil.

The most exciting match was in the women's team epee against Italy. Britain were 4-2 down before breaking through to snatch the silver from the Italians, 5-4. Walton said that Britain's older fencers were now "getting a little long in the tooth."

CRICKET

Dakin and Bacher are split over Pakistan tour

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE six-month-old United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa is divided over a proposed tour by Pakistan in January for a series of five limited overs internationals as a warm-up to the World Cup. Geoff Dakin, the president of the UCB, has publicly stated his support for a Pakistani tour, while Ali Bacher, its managing director, has repeatedly given India the assurance that it will be the first cricketing nation to tour South Africa, next November.

India supported South Africa's return to international cricket at the International Cricket Council meeting at Lord's last July, while Pakistan adopted a lukewarm atti-

tude. With this in mind, Bacher and his supporters within the UCB believe they cannot renege on an agreement with the Indian Board of Control. The Dakin lobby considers that the Indian agreement is only "informal".

Shahid Rafi, the executive secretary of the Pakistan Cricket Board, has contacted the UCB offices in Johannesburg asking for a final decision. He has been advised that it will be taken on December 8.

Clive Rice, the South African captain, wrote in a newspaper column on Sunday that he supported a Pakistan tour because it would give local players international exposure.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

Biggin is Repton's match-winner

BY GEORGE CHESTERTON

REPTON'S dominance against Charterhouse on Saturday was rewarded when Biggin scored the winning goal.

Bolton gained their eleventh win of the season when they visited Manchester GS. Goals from Young and Washington put them two ahead in 30 minutes and, ten minutes from the end, Pinkerton scored a third.

Bradford were also two up at half-time against Hampton. Golf scoring the first and

Deaner netting a 30-yard volley before the interval. Deaner scored again in the second half to give his side a 3-0 win and bring his tally to 17.

Issession, Allyn's acrobatic long-throw expert, caught Landing on the hop, causing an own-goal early in the match and Vernon put the issue beyond doubt after half-time.

Kimbolton romped to a 6-0 victory over Highgate, the goals coming from Sower

(2), Wright, Dean, Bulter and Henry.

Following the final Independent Schools North v South trial on Sunday, the following team has been selected to play against Hertfordshire at Roehampton on December 17.

D Gilbert (Brentwood), W Kendall (Bedford), J Richardson (Brentwood), R Washington (Bolton), D Leeming (CEGS, Blackburn), P Baesley (Bury), B Sedgmore (Wolverhampton), T West (Bolton), R Allen (Manchester GS), G Wilkinson (Manchester GS), C Boyce (Wolverhampton).

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Third round, first leg
Swanovski Tirol v Liverpool (5.30)
FA Cup
First round
Manchester v Preston
First round replays
Doncaster v Burnley
Exeter v Colchester
Hull v Winton
Reading v Slough (7.45)
Rochdale v Grimsby
Walsall v Yeovil (7.45)
Wycombe v Kettering
Zenith Data Systems Cup
Northern area
Leicester v Everton (7.45)
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION:
Brighton v Crystal Palace (7.15); Chelsea v Tottenham (2.0); Swindon v Queens Park Rangers (2.00); West Ham v Ipswich Town (2.00).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.00)
First division: Aston Villa v Leeds; Nottingham Forest v Blackburn; Sheffield Wednesday v Sheffield Utd; West Bromwich v Manchester City; Second division: Burnley v Oldham; Grimsby v Port Vale; Huddersfield v Wigan; Stoke v Notts County; Wolverhampton v Southampton; York v Mansfield.

BARCLAYS COMMERCIAL SERVICES CUP: Second round, first leg: Bury v Tottenham; Charlton v Cardiff; Grimsby v Walsall; Luton v Wigan; Southampton v Wolves; Tottenham v Wolves.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Second division: Rotherham v Bolton.

HFS LEAGUE: First division: Reading v Wigan; Rotherham v Wolves.

JEVISON NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Bradford City v Rotherham; Rotherham v Wolves.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham v Mansfield; Cheltenham v Mansfield; Cheltenham v Mansfield; Cheltenham v Mansfield.

CLIFTON STOCKBROKERS LEAGUE: FA Vase: Second round replays: Farnley Celtic v Great Harwood; Littlehampton v Horsham.

STAFFORDSHIRE SENIOR CUP: Second round: Burton Coldfield v Penworth.

CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP: First round: Congleton v Winsford.

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Barnet v Leyton Orient.

RUGBY UNION

Club matches
Cambridge Univ v M R Steele
Bodger's XV (3.00)
Wasps v Loughborough
University (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Pairs: Express, London; Langley, Cambridge; Lifford v Wokingham; MOTOR RALLYING: Loughborough RAC rally; RACERS: Amateur singles championship (Queen's Club, London); REAL TENNIS: British open singles and doubles championships (Queen's Club, London); SNOOKER: UK championship (Gold Hall, Preston).

Desert Orchid seeks revenge in King George

By MICHAEL SEELY

DESERT Orchid suffered another defeat yesterday when the grey finished third behind Sabin Du Loir and Norton's Coin in the Peterborough Chase before a 7,000 crowd at Huntingdon.

Sabin Du Loir led all the way for a four-length victory, while Desert Orchid was pipped a short head for second place by the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Norton's Coin. This is the fourth time that Sabin Du Loir has beaten the nation's favourite chaser, but Desert Orchid will have a chance of revenge when he attempts to win the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park for a record fifth time.

Corals, the bookmakers, make Desert Orchid and Sabin Du Loir 5-1 chances for the Boxing Day spectacular, while Norton's Coin is quoted at 10-1. The joint-favourites, at 7-2, are Remittance Man and Blazing Walker.

However, after the Huntingdon trial, Desert Orchid's jockey, Richard Dunwoody, said it would be foolish to

write off the old-timer just yet. He said: "I'm far from downhearted. I'm quite happy with the performance. He ran much better than in his prep race before last year's King George win."

"The track was just a bit too tight for him. Kempton is the place for this horse, and it would be most unwise to suggest he cannot win a fifth King George."

His trainer, David Elsworth, has some magic to work with only five weeks to get the 12-year-old back fully firing again.

He said: "I'm satisfied, not disappointed. But if anyone wants to back Sabin Du Loir to beat us again in the King George, I wouldn't put them off."

Desert Orchid's owner, Richard Burridge, stressed that the King George may not be the grey's farewell race. "We will discuss his future a few days after the King George. He might well race again."

Huntingdon report page 45



Splash of colour: Sabin Du Loir leads Desert Orchid and Saffron Lord over the water jump yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Drago is a man in a hurry

By PHIL YATES

TONY Drago, snooker's swiftest potter, made cavalier progress, even by his own standards, towards the quarter-finals of the £200,000 UK Open at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday.

At the interval of his sixth-round match with Steve Newbury, Drago was sitting pretty, 7-1 ahead. The swash-buckling Maltese, aged 26, took only 134 minutes to move within two frames of a last-eight meeting with Stephen Hendry, the defending champion.

Two of Drago's previous appearances at the UK Open have ended in abject disappointment. The most memorable of these was a 9-8 defeat in the quarter-finals five years ago against Steve Davis, which resulted from a glaring miss on the yellow with the colours at his mercy in the deciding frame.

Last year, Drago's challenge for the UK title fourfolded when he was served with a writ during the afternoon interval of his fourth-round match in which he was leading Jon Birch 3-1.

Not surprisingly, he lost the match 9-7, but the basis of the writ, a debt to the Midland Bank arising from a disastrous management involvement, was resolved later in the season by a good run of results and a fruitful relationship with a new manager, Ramsey McLellan.

McLellan has earned a reputation for restructuring the lifestyles of some of the circuit's easy-going characters, instituting practice, fitness and dietary regimes where applicable.

No doubt to the chagrin of McLellan, self-discipline was not a noticeable feature of Drago's play yesterday. Far too many reckless shots left him wide open, but Newbury failed to capitalise, with the exception of the first frame when he compiled an 83 break on his first scoring visit.

Unconvincingly, and at breakneck speed, Drago won the next four frames before increasing his lead to 5-1 with a fortuitous success in the sixth.

Newbury, a former Welsh amateur champion from Neath, aged 35, was by now devoid of confidence. A weak safety shot allowed Drago, the world No. 22, to fashion a decisive run of 46 in the seventh and he completed a seven-frame whitening sequence by potting brown and blue in the last of the session.

Steve James, another client of McLellan's who adopts an attacking philosophy, reversed the trend of his two previous ranking tournament meetings with Tony Jones, the European Open champion, to open a 6-2 lead.

From 2-1, James, the world No. 7, snatched the fourth on the black by taking the colours in three visits. It was the leeway that James, a streak player, needed to soothe the frayed nerves that had contributed to his early session hesitancy.

RESULTS: Sixth round: A Drago (Malta) beats S Newbury (Wales) 7-1; S James (Eng) beats A Jones (Eng) 6-2.

England stalwart left counting the cost of playing for his country

Teague may be forced to quit

By PETER BILLS

MIKE Teague, the England forward who is out of rugby union and unable to work properly until the new year because of injuries suffered in the World Cup, yesterday said that the Rugby Football Union's reluctance to sanction commercial activities by the players might force his retirement.

Teague was one of the key players in England's advance to the World Cup final. He said the disillusionment and depth of ill-feeling towards the rugby authorities within the England side was immense.

That view helps to explain why four players, possibly Wade Dooley, aged 34, Peter Winterbottom, 31, Mick Skinner, 33, and Teague, 32, are considering following Paul Ackford into retirement.

Teague, a self-employed builder, estimated that his involvement in the World Cup cost him £5,000 and loss of earnings from injuries sustained in the tournament will

probably add another £3,000.

"I am a physical wreck," he said. "I haven't worked properly since the tournament. I have a serious neck injury which has prevented my doing more than three days' work in the three weeks since the final."

"I also have injuries and pain from my shoulder and elbow, both knees and an ankle. But the neck is the most serious, and the doctor has told me I cannot return to proper work until the new year. All I have been able to do is some administration work in the office, and, as a builder, that is next to useless."

Teague said that against this background of personal commitment to the cause of English rugby, he was disillusioned that the authorities continued to refuse to ease the commercial restrictions on English players.

"When we see and hear what is happening in the rest of the world, in countries like France, Italy, New Zealand

and Australia, it just depresses me that we are denied any reward. The time has come to say something."

"We were even told the Welsh boys earned more from the World Cup than us. That sums up the situation. In England, you are expected to do it all just for good old Blighty."

"As far as I am concerned, that is not enough any more. When you think about the amount of time and effort you are putting in, what it costs you financially and physically, you wonder if it is worth it and whether you can afford to go on."

All the players remaining in the England squad from the World Cup would carry on playing international rugby if restrictions on commercial earnings were lifted, Teague said. They may yet continue to do so, anyway, but the comments of the Gloucester player illustrate the extent of frustration felt in the England dressing-room.

"I shall decide by the end of December whether to play on

or retire. But I shall be influenced by what the other players decide. We are sitting on the fence at the moment, but I have to say the chances are I might finish and I think many of the England players may walk away from it because they are so hacked off."

"Everyone is making money out of the players, but we are not allowed to earn anything, and that is wrong. I feel so disappointed about it."



Teague: disillusioned

what is the harm in looking after players?"

"The authorities are stifling the game and driving the players away. They are yesterday's men. They are out of it now. Why don't they let the new generation take over. Rugby has changed so much since their day, there is no comparison even with ten years ago. In all but name, today, it is a professional sport, given the time and preparation you must put in to play at top level."

"They cannot go on denying those who make that commitment some reward from activities conducted in their own time."

Teague, the father of a baby son, advocated the introduction of trust funds to be available to international players on their retirement. Otherwise, he said, players should be free to market themselves commercially in activities alongside the sport.

"The authorities' action has just driven the issue of money under the table and made the game dishonest," he said.

Penalties set FA Cup first

By LOUISE TAYLOR

LAST night's FA Cup first-round replays were the first in the 120-year history of the competition to be played with the possibility of a penalty shoot-out as the decisive factor.

Under pressure from the police, the Football Association agreed in the summer to limit FA Cup ties to one replay to be followed by extra time and, if necessary, a penalty shoot-out.

The limitation to one replay was prompted by police insistence that replays must be staged ten days after the original

drawn match instead of three or four days, as in previous years.

David Bloomfield, the FA's press officer, said that with a minimum of ten days between matches, ties running to several replays would have turned the competition into a "logistical nightmare". He went on to say that penalties would be used as the final arbiter because "they are the only method approved by Fifa".

However, the FA is hopeful that the police may be persuaded to have a change of

heart in future seasons.

Bloomfield said: "This was forced upon us, and while we sympathise with the police predicament, we have hopes of changing their minds and reverting back to the old system in the future."

"Part of the folklore that surrounds the FA Cup relates to ties which meandered on for quite a while over several replays."

"It was good to have replays when the match was fresh in everyone's mind and interest didn't have an opportunity to wane."

Sport in need of a more effective voice

By TONY WARD

COMMENT

THE derisory £2.1 million increase in the government's grant to the Sports Council brought about much wailing and wringing of hands but little action.

It has always been so. Compared with the arts, sport is considered, despite its wide public appeal, to be not very serious, something the boys do on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday morning to let off steam.

This certainly seems to be the government's approach, from the prime minister downwards: ministers think no further than the games they played at school as representing the healthy interests of the nation.

These are the reasons why grants to sport are but a fraction of those given to the arts: these are the reasons why, as the Princess Royal recently pointed out, Britain is one of the few countries whose national Olympic association has to go, every four years, with a begging

bowl to the public to send a team to the Games. It is why we do not have the facilities in Britain to stage a world or European athletics championship, despite being, globally, the third strongest nation; it is why Olympic bids from Britain, battling against state-aided challenges, have fallen by the wayside.

The arts possess something that sport does not have, a strong political lobby. The Sports Council and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) have been ineffective in the political arena. Each year (until this one), the sports minister visits the CCPR conference, is mildly chastised by its officers, makes a suitable political reply, leaves quickly for urgent business at the House and sport tucks its way through the next two days. In a month, it is all forgotten.

The arts has something else. It receives serious attention on television and radio. The *Late Show* programme devotes almost half an hour to discussion of the Arts Council grant. The minister is quizzed and well known personalities add their voices to the debate.

Is there ever a question asked on *Sportsnight* or *Midweek Sports Special* about government grants to sport? Never. Indeed, there is hardly any discussion on sporting issues at all, unless it is Frank Bruno's fragile eyes, the latest football management crisis or tomorrow's race at Sandown.

On television, sport has been reduced to the level of popular game shows and has so become part of the entertainment business that some of its main practitioners go, each year, into pantomime.

The adamant refusal of a number of sporting bodies to recognise that their sport has become, at the highest level, utterly professional, demanding a full-time commitment, is all part of this ethos. Come the Barcelona Olymp-

pics next summer, the tune will be very different. Success here will have political implications because politicians are aware of the "feel-good" factor. Telegrams of congratulations from party leaders (including the new prime minister) will wing their way to the Catalan capital, teams will be invited to the Palace on their return, there will be a flurry of OBEs for the more successful.



Howell: misconception

Everybody recognises that sporting success is good for the nation — until the time comes for government money to be allocated, and then we are back into the bad old annual syndrome again.

Why does the London Marathon attract three times or more entries than the 30,000 or so who are finally accepted? It is because, as its founder, Chris Brasher, will aver, in this ever-increasingly sedentary and safe society, people require a challenge in life.

It can also provide an outlet for frustration, boredom and anger. A few years ago, while Broadwater Farm burned, another group of youngsters, half a mile or so away, were quietly and determinedly going about their sporting business. Sport and recreation is, for millions, part of their quality of life, is an essential part of the fabric of society and as such deserves to be taken seriously by those who govern our lives.

The time has come for sport to jerk itself out of the old yearly whinge about government parsimony and form itself into an effective parliamentary lobby with clout. It should form a media lobby as well to ensure that issues that affect a large percentage of the population obtain a reasonable hearing.

In this way, perhaps, Manchester may, in a few years, have more than models with which to promote its bid: athletes will have an arena with which to successfully bid for the world championships; and Britain will begin to regain some of the prestige it once had in the sporting world.

If 70 per cent of the population still think that Denis Howell is the minister for sport, the faint lies not with politics or quangoes but with ourselves.

□ Tony Ward is an author of sports books and public relations consultant to the British Athletic Federation.

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